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2009

### The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 18 (January - December 2009)

Joyce I. Knox

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# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

January-March '09

Volume 18, Issue 1

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:16 & 17 (NIV)



Rev. William A. Ryan

### William A. Ryan Confronting the Klan

By William S. Ryan

I refer here to a very personal story that relates to my father, a Disciples Minister from the early 1920's till his death at ninety-seven in 1981, and a sermon he delivered against the Ku Klux Klan on November 2, 1924, in Tarentum, PA, just before an election. Even though he had made clear to his congregation his opposition to the Klan, Klansmen came to him, claiming to be a "patriotic group," asking Dad to deliver a sermon on patriotism.

In the sermon he delivered, I see in my father's denunciation of the Klan -- 84 years ago -- a profile in courage and faithful witness to the **Continued on page 3.**

### What is 100% Americanism?

By Rev. William A. Ryan

*Back in 1924, when the Ku Klux Klan was at its height, Disciples pastor William Atkinson Ryan, First Christian Church, Tarentum, PA responded to the Klan's announced plans to attend his church as a group, by welcoming them with the stipulation that they not wear masks or robes, that they not demonstrate, and that they not expect to like what the preacher would say. Then he preached the sermon excerpted below.*

In expressing my convictions relative to the Ku Klux Klan I am not unmindful of the fact that many members of this congregation are either members of the Klan or are in sympathy with the movement, and that in openly taking a stand against the Klan as I see it, I am inviting the condemnation of my members.

Who, I ask, is there so presumptuous as to declare himself competent to pass judgment on a Jew or a Roman Catholic in settling the question of whether or not he is fit to enjoy all the privileges and rights of American citizenship? Where is the upright and faithful citizen who will dare presume that a man may be barred from the group of 100 percent Americans because, forsooth, he does not happen to be native, white and Protestant? If anyone takes this stand, then I ask upon what sentence of the Constitution of the United States does he base his assumption? And remember this: a 100 percent American is one whose actions are in accord with the law of the land and whose life is **Continued on page 3.**

## ***FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN***



Dear Readers:

This being the first newsletter of 2009, the OTG staff wishes all of our readers a very healthy, joyous, prosperous and peaceful NEW YEAR!

Since our last issue we have had some changes. Dr. Ernest Newborn has resigned as Board President and Dr. Roland Huff has resigned as a member of the Board. Dr. Newborn is one of the founders of the newsletter, and has decided to lend his talents as a contributing editor. Dr. Huff has been an influential Board member for many years and will continue to support the newsletter wherever he can. Both will be sorely missed.

It was, however, recommended by Dr. Newborn that Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty be considered for Board President. After conversing with Dr. Twitty, she agreed to consider the position. The Board was polled, she was unanimously approved and she accepted the position. With Dr. Twitty as Board President, we will be gaining an energetic and tireless worker who will bring her own style and expertise to the position. The *Oldtimers' Grapevine* staff welcomes her with prayer and gratitude and we know you, our readers, concur.

In the stories of the people in the OTG, we glimpse the extraordinary gift of Christian community taking shape in ordinary times and places of life. Because the OTG reflects your interests, we are eagerly waiting for you to send an article about your church and/or its ministries so we can celebrate your accomplishments. Additionally, the OTG staff would like to thank each of you for your continued interest in the newsletter (the readership continues to increase) and your monetary gifts.

May God continue to bless you and keep you in His care!

Blessings & Peace,

Joyce I. Knox

**William A. Ryan**  
**Confronting the Klan *cont'd.***

message of the Gospel appropriate for Christian clergy to demonstrate. His denunciation of racial, religious, and national prejudice has a special relevance today, when the biracial background of our new President and the issue of immigration are two realities in the national discussion.

My father's courageous challenge incurred the wrath of Klansmen in the community and his church. Following Dad's delivery of the sermon, a cross was burned in protest and no one would continue to rent his family a place to live. Knowing he had Klansmen on the church board, Dad proposed some innocuous motions that were all defeated. After this testing of the sense of the board, Dad offered his resignation, saying he obviously could no longer perform ministry under such circumstances. Because of Dad's stance, he lost his job, but his integrity remained intact.

The one consequence of his witness against the Klan that Dad seemed most proud of was that, because he demonstrated one could stand up to the Klan and at least not be killed, the community rejected the Klan's strong prejudicial stand against Roman Catholics, electing the first Roman Catholic mayor of Tarentum.

The story of Dad's actions was picked up by the news media. The only sample that has come down to me is from a Baltimore paper, I assume *The Baltimore Sun*.



*William S. Ryan is a retired Disciples minister living in Baltimore, MD.*

**What is 100% Americanism? *cont'd.***

devoted to perpetuating its ideals and its aims. The law of our land refuses to disqualify a man for anything because of his religious convictions and 100 percent Americanism will be the kind of Americanism that upholds the law of the land.

I have dealt with the question of 100 percent Americanism as a citizen of the United States, basing my conclusions upon the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. I wish to set up a higher standard than either of those -- the words of Jesus Christ.

Is there in the Word of God a place, as in the Declaration and the Constitution, where one may place his finger and say, this is the test by which we may determine whether or not a man is 100 percent American? Matthew, writing his story of Jesus, said that in delivering the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Therefore, by their fruit shall ye know them."

What are the fruits of 100 percent Americanism as produced by the activities of the Ku Klux Klan? I suppose I could go to no more authoritative source than the Imperial Wizard Dr. Hiram Evans. Several months ago Dr. Evans very kindly mailed to thousands of us Protestant ministers a copy of his address, "The Menace of Modern Immigration." In this address Dr. Evans settles the questions of the Klan's attitude toward questions of racial equality and religious liberty. He dogmatically states that there are in America three unassimilable groups -- the Negro, the Jew, and the Roman Catholic. Not only are they unassimilable now, but in the vast conceit of Dr. Evans, they never will be assimilable and become 100 percent Americans. A number of you have asked me where I got the notion that the Klan takes an unfavorable attitude toward the Negro, the Catholic and the Jew. I get it from such fruits of the Klan as its imperial wizard, Dr. Hiram Evans.

## What is 100% Americanism? *cont'd.*

As a citizen of the United States, I look back tonight over our glorious history and nowhere in all its record do I find a single reform or a battle of righteousness or truth that has not been fought in the open. One hundred percent Americanism demands that there be no fighting -- even for good things -- behind a mask or hood or robe. One hundred percent Americanism calls to its standard only those who are courageous enough to let the world know who they are and what they stand for. This is the spirit of our national history, of which we are so justly proud -- good sportsmanship and open fighting for what we think is right. It is this open, unmasked struggle for the right that makes me look askance at the masked activities of the Ku Klux Klan. Surely we have not lost all the courage of our forefathers!

Not only do I find no warrant for the mask as a citizen of my country, but I find no warrant for it as a follower of Jesus Christ. His justly proud boast, when his captors came upon him under cover of darkness was, "I ever taught openly in the temple." Can we envision Jesus delivering the Sermon on the Mount, robed, hooded, and masked? Can we imagine him in the gaudy trappings of the klansmen holding out his arms and pleading "Suffer the little children to come unto me;" or can we imagine a little black child, or a Samaritan child, or a Syrian child, or any child, for that matter, coming in answer to his call and being thrust aside because it did not belong to his church?

I read further from Dr. Evans and find this remarkable statement: "We have not more than 35 million 100 percent Americans -- perhaps 30 million would be the limit." He arrives at this conclusion by eliminating 13,712,734 foreign-born; 15,694,539 whose parents were born abroad; another 6,994,665 who were born of mixed alien and native white stock. The next to be dropped from the list of eligibles are more than 10 million Negroes and about one-half million Orientals. Twenty to 20 million are ruled out on the grounds of "iniquity, illiteracy and other social inadequacies." And so the doctor finds but 30 million Americans out of 115 mil-

lion inhabitants fit to be called 100 percent Americans. Was there ever such a colossal nerve, such supreme egotism, such monumental folly?

What has been the fruit of the Klan among the people of these United States where its power has been felt and its influence exerted? Dr. J. M. Meeklin of Dartmouth College, in his recent book "The Ku Klux Klan", in describing the most favorable sections of the country for the development of the Klan, said "The state of Oklahoma is the paradise of the Klan." Very well, then, to Oklahoma we go to find what Oklahoma has to say about the fruit of this tree that is so fast growing up in her body, social and politic. I read from a most reputable and reliable Oklahoma paper, the Daily Oklahoman: "The advent of the Invisible Empire in Oklahoma has been followed by an era of bitterness such as this state has never before dreamed of. Peaceful communities are forever divided since the Klan issue has been raised."

But I need not go to Oklahoma - I can see its fruit of bitterness and hate and ugliness in Pennsylvania, in Allegheny County, in Tarentum -- in my own church.

Can you by any manner of means summon up a mental picture of Jesus in klansman's robe sitting at Jacob's Well, telling the woman of Samaria that because of their racial difference and religious beliefs, she could never be one of the elect? No, it is ever so much easier to imagine him doing just what he did do, sitting down and in the spirit of love and brotherhood telling her the story of his Messiahship. I am mighty glad that Jesus told that first to a foreigner.

I know what the klansmen say -- they have said it to me, both the ordinary members and their leaders! "If we come out in the open, we shall be persecuted and boycotted. We dare not yet come out from behind the mask. After a while we shall be able to do so, but right now our greatest strength lies in own being unknown."

And this in the name of Jesus Christ, who scorned to hide his identity even though he was

## What is 100% Americanism? *cont'd.*

persecuted by his enemies, boycotted by his friends and neighbors, forsaken by his followers and murdered by the mob. His was an open, unmasked fight against the forces of evil and I thank God for it. I could have had no faith in a masked Christ and I have less in a masked follower.

I am told that the Klan is spending itself to protect protestantism; to preserve it that it may live to fulfill its divine mission. Listen! If protestantism has not within itself the seed of its own life, then it will die, as it ought to die. If protestantism cannot be saved by the principles and practices of Jesus, it can never be saved by the Ku Klux Klan.

As I look out over the world tonight I am satisfied to set up no standard of fellowship and brotherhood other than that which Jesus set up -- not a standard of creed or race or color, but a standard based on life -- "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother," and I am satisfied to let him be the judge, feeling that he will call unto himself many from all the countries and churches and homes, asking only that they did the will of his Father as best they knew how.

And do you know, somehow, I would hate to set up a higher standard as a test of American citizenship than Jesus set up for his kingdom in heaven.



## Feed the Nice Wolf

In her eloquent sermon at the January 21 National Prayer Service, Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), made unmistakable allusions to some of the most perplexing issues facing our country in this century.

Recalling Emma Lazarus: *"Give me your tired, your poor...yearning to breathe free."*

Noting our human tendency *"...to hoard what little we can get our hands on, to be fearful of others who may take the resources we need."*

Quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: *"As long as...millions of people in this world cannot expect to live more than twenty eight or thirty years, I can never be totally healthy."*

These are stressful to think about, but not going away -- central, complex, and connected questions of public policy and personal morality regarding --

- U.S. immigration practices
- Achieving fairness and compassion in a robust capitalist economy (aka sharing the wealth)
- Our ability to hold the problems of people of other nations as being our own problems

OTG invites readers to state their thoughts on this question: Which of these three issues will be hardest for people of the U.S. to tackle, and what practical measures will help our citizens lean to our "better angels" and succeed in overcoming these conflicts and challenges? We'll share your ideas in a future article. Please send your comments to:

otgrapevine@hotmail.com

or

OTG Editors

8621 Fulton Avenue

Glenarden, MD 20706

## Christian Theological Seminary Honors Drs. Ernest & Janice Newborn

**Janice Robinson Newborn** received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree for her years of faithful ministry as a tireless laywoman who has dedicated her life to service to her church and community, and as a vibrant leader who is a recognized as a pioneer for women's leadership.

Newborn's ministry has included groundbreaking work with the Divisions of Homeland and Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), culminating in her appointment as the first African American to lead the international Department of Church Women. She subsequently became the Senior Associate for the international Office of Disciples Women. Her leadership during that time was courageous as she partnered with the Board of Homeland Ministries and its leadership to restructure the division to more ably serve congregations as the front line of the work of the church and the place where women first emerged as leaders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She also furthered the cause of women's leadership in the worldwide church, holding offices in the World Convention of Churches and Churches of Christ and in the

World Christian Women's Fellowship.

Through her involvement in the Woman to Woman Worldwide program, leading mission groups of church women all over the world, she contributed to a vision of global Christianity where all people are brought together to meet as equals for mutual understanding and shared faith. Having also served as a leader in the national structure of Church Women United and on the Board of the National Council of Churches in the USA, she has mentored a generation of women leaders who have provided leadership at all levels of church life. She continues to be in demand all over the nation as a speaker and retreat leader on women's issues and church leadership.

**Ernest J. Newborn, Sr.** received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of his years of faithful ministry in which he has provided visionary leadership, especially by fighting racism and poverty and working to help the Christian community live into the reconciliation Christ has made possible.

Newborn's ministry has included leadership of congregations in Ohio, Indiana, Washington, DC, and California. He has achieved co-standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

In his work with Reconciliation Ministries, he has provided exemplary leadership to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and created new resources that have helped congregations work for justice. He has offered a personal model of humility and service, and raised more than ten million dollars for the alleviation of racism and poverty in North America.

Newborn has furthered understanding among peoples of different cultures, races, and economic backgrounds through his support of such pioneering programs as the Mother to Mother ministry, an innovative program that brought



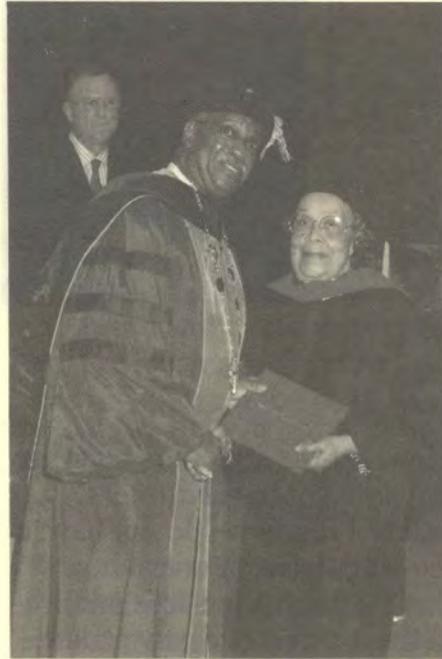
**ABOVE:** Ernest J. Newborn is congratulated by David K. Herzog. Wife Janice & Carolyn Higginbotham, VP and Academic Dean, CTS, are framed by their handshake.

## Christian Theological Seminary Honors Drs. Ernest & Janice Newborn *cont.d*

welfare and suburban mothers together and that was recognized by Vice President Al Gore as an effective way to strengthen communities. Newborn also served the wider community as president of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, as a program evaluator for the United Way of Central Indiana, and as a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Indianapolis Urban League. In retirement he has continued to work for justice, serving on the Pacific South-west Regional Committee for Racial Justice.



OTG thanks Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN, for permission to reprint this article.



**ABOVE:** David K. Herzog, Chairman, Board Of Directors, CTS, looks on as Janice R. Newborn receives her degree from President Edward L. Wheeler.

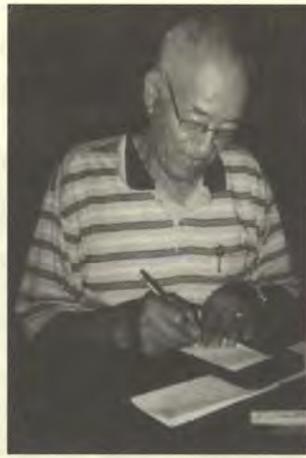


**ABOVE:** Ceremony participants from left to right: Edward L. Wheeler, President, CTS, Drs. Janice and Ernest Newborn, Carolyn Higginbotham, VP and Academic Dean, CTS, and David K. Herzog, Chairman, Board Of Directors, CTS.



## OSCAR'S NOTES

From the Desk of the  
Contributing Editor



his heavenly reward on October 9, 2004.

The *Grapevine* has continuously been blessed with a dedicated volunteer board and staff. Two prominent board members, who had served the entire 17 years, recently retired from active service. They are Rev. Dr. Ernest J. Newborn, Chair, and Rev. Dr. Roland Huff. Dr. Newborn's retirement is due to health, and Dr. Huff's because of his move to Vermont to be near family. The staff and board already miss their wise leadership. Their full-time active leadership is gone but not their loving friendship.

The *OTG* is blessed that Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, prominent church leader and businesswoman, will take over the chairmanship of the board of directors. Dr. Twitty is a dear friend of Dr. Fox and joined the board of directors three years ago. One board member, who has served on several boards of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), exclaimed "She is one of the best-trained leaders there is in our church".

My friends, this is an appeal for your help in keeping our history alive by responding to appeals from the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN, Mrs. Amelia Walker, Indianapolis, IN, and Dr. Charisse Gillette, Lexington, KY. They ask for your buried treasures in basements, garages, and storerooms in homes and church buildings. This cry is for memorabilia of African Americans who are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

I will share a bit of African American history to whet your appetite. African Americans were present in the Stone Campbell Movement soon after its inception. Records of 1820 list African Americans as members of the two earliest congregations at Cane Ridge, KY and Brush Run, PA. The earliest African American congregations were in the Colored Christian Church, Midway, KY; Logan County, OH; Lexington, KY; Louisville, KY; Uniontown/Uniontown Community, NC; Nashville, TN; Bourbon County, KY; and congregations in Washington, Johnson, and Wilkinson counties in Georgia.

Among the early known African American evangelists and leaders were Alfred (Offie) Pettiford, Joe F. Whitley, R. Esom Green, William An-

It is with much pride that the staff puts together this 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of the *Oldtimers' Grapevine* newsletter. I regret we do not have a brass band or three-ring circus to reveal how thankful we are that a subscription-free publication can survive in these times of costly production and postage. This makes us more thankful for God's blessings of our strong supportive board and staff of trained technicians who love giving their time and talent to Godly service. However, better than the circus or brass band is this dynamic cartoon provided by popular artist Bruce Tisley. Thank you, Maestro.

During these 17 years of publishing, there have been many changes, but our newsletter continues enjoying success. We have been blessed with competent, dedicated leadership. Riding on the outstanding legacy in Church and community of the founder, Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, Sr., his dream of a publication that would lift the contributions of minorities established a respectful name for the *OTG*, inherited at his departure for



## OSCAR'S NOTES *cont'd*

thony (Bill Ant'ly), Alfred Lovick, Sr., Demus Hargett, Allen Chestnut, and Yancy Porter. Two others who kept detailed records were B. J. Gregory, who received over 3,000 members, and Charles Randolph Davis Whitfield, who baptized 1,857 people and gave six sons to the ministry.

Probably no individual more effectively embodied the tenacious spirit of early African American Disciples of Christ than Elder Preston Taylor (1849-1931). Elder Taylor was a former slave who turned preacher and organized several churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was the organizer of the National Christian Missionary Convention, forerunner of the National Convocation. Thousands of facts like these are found in *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement*, available from the Historical Society, 1101 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Nashville, TN, 37212-2196.

Mrs. Walker will maintain the repository for all pictures or program booklets you are willing to share. These articles will not be returned, but they will be carefully kept safe for the future. The plan is that the materials will be displayed at the General Assembly this summer in Indianapolis, IN. Please mail this material, clearly identified, to Mrs. Amelia Walker, c/o Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

A third project covers the gathering of information on the historical State Conventions. This would include constitutions, officer listings, church listings, program books, etc., etc. Please mail these materials to Dr. Charisse Gillette, Program Director, The Lilly Project, Transylvania University, 300 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40508.

As we struggle through this period of uncertainty and frightening unemployment figures and bank failures, it is easy to become a victim of despair and hopelessness. It is time that we begin each day with an attitude of gratitude, humbly placing all our hope in God. Do you remember that old familiar hymn "My Hope is

built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the (financial frame), but wholly lean on Jesus' name. His oath, his covenant, his blood, Support me in the overwhelming flood."

The scripture assures us in Psalm 33:18, "Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love . . ." Our hope is clearly alive during the Lenten season as we are reminded that Christ died and Christ rose again from the dead. We today experience the fulfillment of God's promise. Put your trust in God and send up prayers for President Barack Obama and his administration.



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## DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

**Hawkins, TX** -- Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX, has named Dr. Cornell Thomas as its new President. Dr. Thomas served as Vice President for Institutional Diversity at Oklahoma State University before coming to Jarvis.

Dr. Thomas earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri at St. Louis. He holds a Master's degree in Music Education from Jackson State University and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Texas A & M University. Jarvis Christian College is a historically black college and is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**Springfield, VA** -- Springfield Christian Church Women's Ministry held their retreat March 21 & 22, 2009, at the Lexington George Washington Inn in Williamsburg, VA. In what has become a custom, they have invited the Disciples Women's Ministry from Twelfth Street Christian in Washington, DC to join them. The theme for this year's retreat was "Prayer", the discussions were in depth, insightful, and lively. On Sunday, time was allotted for worship. This time offered the women an opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal.

**New York, NY** -- Reverend Mary Anne Glover, a North Carolina native, was recently named the Interim Regional Minister for the Northeast Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Prior to her appointment, Reverend Glover served the Christian Church in Ohio as the Senior Associate Regional Minister. She served as Senior Pastor of Faith United Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN, and with congregations in Minneapolis, MN and Louisville KY.

Reverend Glover was the 1991 Disciples Scholar at the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland. In 2003 she was chosen to study at Harvard University Divinity School as a Merrill Fellow. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from

East Carolina University in Greenville, NC and her Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY. To learn more about Reverend Glover you can go to [www.parkavenuechristian.com/pastorsforum](http://www.parkavenuechristian.com/pastorsforum) for the radio interview she had with Reverend Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, Senior Pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church, New York City.

**Indianapolis, IN** -- Remember to register for the 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The General Assembly will be held from Wednesday, July 29, 2009 through Sunday, August 2, 2009 at the Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. The theme for the 2009 Assembly is "... for the Healing of the Nation", Revelations 22:2. You can register on line at [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga).

## OVERHEARD

Wife: What are you doing today?

Husband: Nothing.

Wife: That's what you did yesterday.

Husband: Yes, and I'm not finished.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

These days, when we seem to be inundated with bad news on most fronts, it is gratifying to have pastors that can be celebrated -- pastors who have lived and presented themselves in the presence of God, as leaders of His church according to the Holy Scripture. We have learned of a few of these pastors who have celebrated installations and anniversaries lately and the OTG staff extends our heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS!

The pastors that we know about are: Reverend Dr. Alvin O. Jackson celebrates the first year of his installation as Senior Pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City; Reverend Dr. Paul H. Saddler, three years as Senior Pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC; Reverend Joan Bell Haynes, four years as Pastor of United Christian Parish, Reston, VA; Reverend Dr. Stephen Gentle, three years as Senior Pastor of National City Christian Church, Washington, DC; Reverend Brenda Cardwell, 20 years as Senior Pastor of Pilgrimage Christian Church, Suitland, MD; Reverend Dr. Cynthia Hale, 22 years as Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA; Reverend Dr. Delores Carpenter, 23 years as Senior Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC, and Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, 39 years as Senior Pastor of Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN.

We know that there are many more pastors in the Disciples Church who have celebrated anniversaries recently -- won't you please send us your information so that we can congratulate you?

## THE POET'S CORNER

### Famine or Feast of Life

There are youth who feel a need to stray,  
to push against the pricks of life  
most every single day.

When friends and family advise and chide  
they're blatantly pushed away,  
for some bear foggy thoughts that mar and scar,  
and sway.

Why-oh-why won't they listen to the words,  
their wisdom, elders say.

Things are so much different now.  
Many changes, strange things and new.  
So many choices to make, to pick, to choose, to do.  
The accuser's voice is everywhere,  
his view seen daily -- so strong.  
And in the minds and hearts of many,  
they know their path is wrong.  
The accuser won't relinquish;  
he'll press till he has won  
and when he wins his mission,  
it's killed another son.

There is one thing only that is *sine quibus non*.  
It is the WORD of Christ our King  
and --That-- no one should shun,  
for it's essential, providential -- the Provider will sustain  
the soul who seeks His refuge  
and in His WORD remain. Amen!

May Reed

January 9, 2009

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



**ARLINGTON, VA**—Charles Duane Swihart was born July 18, 1935 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He graduated sixth in his class from Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma, in 1957. During his summer vacations from 1955 through 1957, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Freemont National Forest, Oregon, as a firefighter and as a lookout. He was commissioned in the Coast Guard in 1958 and served until 1961. He began his career with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1964, and retired from there in 1993.

He became a member of National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1959. He served on the Board of Elders for many years and was elected Elder Emeritus in November 2008. He taught Sunday school for over 45 years, sang in the Sanctuary choir, and served on many committees.

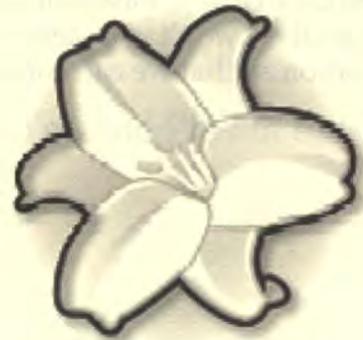
Duane was very active in the Christian Church's camp and conference programs. He served on the Board of Managers for the Bethany Beach conference center, taught classes, and participated in maintenance and improvement of the region's two campsites. Duane also was active and served on the boards of the local and national men's work of the Christian Church and served on the Young Life Committee at Wakefield High School.

Duane is survived by his wife of 46 years, Kathleen Swihart, daughters Teresa Swihart and Carla Wilson, son-in-law Bill Wilson, and grandchildren Kevin and Melissa Wilson, all living in Northern Virginia.



**Indianapolis, IN** - Reverend Lucas Torres died on November 11, 2008. He served congregations in Puerto Rico, Orlando, FL, and the Bronx, NY. He served for seven years as the National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries before his retirement in 1999. In 2006, during the 13<sup>th</sup> National Hispanic and Bilingual Assembly, he was named National Pastor Emeritus for Hispanic Ministries.

Reverend Torres was honored by the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN, when he received their honorary Doctorate degree.



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



**Kansas City, MO** – Velma L. Warrick was born on March 16, 1917, in Fulton, MO, to the late Walter C. Payne and Roxie Jane Burton Payne. The second of three children, she was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Calvin; sisters Portia Payne Harris and Edna Payne; and brother-in-law Frank Harris.

Velma attended the Old North Public School in Fulton, graduated from Lincoln University High School in Jefferson City, MO in 1934, and earned an Associate of Arts degree from Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City. During World War II, Velma moved to Kansas City to work in the Lake City Arsenal Plant. It was there that she met and married Calvin on January 10, 1945. Velma's life was dedicated to church and family and she was very creative in making her home a special place for family and friends. Throughout her children's youth she served as Den Mother, Girl Scout Leader, and a PTA member and President. She loved children and worked as a certified paraprofessional in the Kansas City schools for 25 years. She was an outstanding teacher -- both at home, and in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School where she instructed others to become Sunday School teachers. Additionally, she was an accomplished pianist and organist.

Velma was a lifelong member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a young lady she was a very dedicated member of Second Christian Church in Fulton. She enjoyed playing piano for the Senior Choir, Men's Chorus, and Junior Choir. She worked in the Sunday School and Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF), and was often a delegate to conventions representing her church. When she moved to Kansas City, she joined Woodland Avenue Christian Church, where she served in similar roles. When the church relocated, becoming West Paseo Christian Church, Velma continued her service in Christian Education and the CWF.

She and her family joined Central Christian Church after volunteering to work in the newly-formed congregation, and after several years returned to West Paseo, which subsequently merged with another congregation, becoming Swope Parkway United Christian Church. Her faithful service continued until her health began to fail. She was an Elder Emeritus at Swope Parkway United Christian at the time of her death.

Left to cherish her memory are daughters Beverly Warrick Dickason and Calma J. Warrick-Phillips (Bobby); sons Calvin Payne Warrick and Malvin W. Warrick (Kim); grandchildren Sydney Gayle Dickason, Malvin J. Warrick, Brittney L. Warrick, and Bethany L. Warrick; great-grandson Malachi A. Bartley; nieces Etta Mae Harris Richmond of Kankakee, IL and Sandra Payne Richmond of Triangle, VA; and a host of relatives, "adopted" children, and close friends.

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The writers and editors put together this little newsletter as a labor of love. The cost of printing and postage is \$5 a year per subscriber. 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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## READERS' COMMENT CORNER

Hope all is going well at the Grapevine. The last issue was a great one. May the New Year be good for you!

Robbie & Louada Chisholm  
Silver Spring, MD

Dear inheritors of the "passing torch" — you are now carrying it well!

Ernest Newborn  
Claremont, CA

Send us a postcard, e-mail or letter

When we hear from our Readers

We feel much better.

Dust off your typewriter and send us a line.

Yours truly,

The Staff of *The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE*



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otgrapevine@hotmail.com

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# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

April—June '09

Volume 18, Issue 2

It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:7 (NIV)



Dr. Daisy L. Machado

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## Disciples Ordained Clergy Women

By May F. Lindsey Reed

Daisy L. Machado is currently Professor of the History of Christianity at Union Theological Seminary, NY, NY, with a special focus on U.S. Christianities. She holds a B.A. from Brooklyn College, an M.S.W. from Hunter College School of Social Work, a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, New York, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She is the first U.S. Latina ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1981 by the Northeast Region, and the first Latina in the U.S. to serve as academic dean of a an accredited seminary, when she served as Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY, the first Disciples seminary in the country.

Rev. Dr. Machado has served inner city congregations in Spanish Harlem and Brooklyn, NY, and with her husband was pastor developer of the first Latino Disciples congregations in Houston, Iglesia Cristiana El Redentor , and in Fort Worth, Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Paz. She has also preached at a number of General Assemblies and keynoted at numerous Regional events. In the summer of 2008, she was invited to be one of the chaplains at the historic

***Continued on page 2.***

## Board President's Letter Passing the Torch

Beloved Grapevine Readers,

As a new grandmother, I often look into the eyes of my grandson, Zion Bakari Roman Strickland, and I experience great joy, happiness, and gratitude to God for the promise of this new life. I also feel a great sense of responsibility to pass on my values and faith journey to this precious child.

As I think about my new role as President of the Board of Directors of this publication, I also experience a great sense of joy, happiness, and gratitude to God for using our visionary founder and first editor, Reverend William K. Fox, to give birth to the *Oldtimers' Grapevine*.

What promise the Grapevine had at its inception and continues to have, thanks in part to the passing of the torch from one person to the next in terms of providing leadership for this newsletter. I extend sincerest thanks and kudos to Oscar Haynes, Joyce Knox, Ernest Newborn, *Grapevine* board members, staff, and contributors who have faithfully and willingly shared their talents to make the *Grapevine* a wonderful conduit for sharing our faith journey.

With humility, I look forward to tapping into the expertise and wisdom of staff, board members, and our faithful readers as we continue to carry out the rich legacy of the *Grapevine*. Be assured that at the proper time we may seek to "pass the torch" to you, and our hope is that you will say: "Yes – here I am, send me."

Sincerely,

Norma Ellington-Twitty

## Disciples Ordained Clergy Women *cont'd.*

Chautauqua Institution where she preached for one week at the daily worship services. Most recently, she preached at Riverside Church in NYC for their celebration of "Immigration Sunday". She has lectured in Mexico, Venezuela, and Germany.

In 1996-1999, Dr. Machado served as the first Director of the Hispanic Theological Initiative, a \$3.4 million project funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts to increase the presence of Latina/o faculty teaching in seminaries, schools of religion, and religion departments around the country. From 2002-06, she served as the Chair of the Board of the Hispanic Summer Program, an innovative masters level program currently supported by over 30 seminaries and schools of theology. Dr. Machado was also Luce Lecturer in Urban Ministry at Harvard Divinity School, and Lecturer at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, teaching a class on "Latina/o Spirituality and Medicine."

Her publications include: *Borders and Margins: Hispanic Disciples in the Southwest, 1888-1942; A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology: Religion and Justice*; as well as numerous chapters in anthologies, encyclopedias, journals and magazines. Her two latest publications are 'The Southern U.S. Border: Immigration, the Historical Imagination, and Globalization' in *Rethinking Economic Globalization*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006) and "Voices from *Nepantla*: Latinas in U.S. Religious History" in *Feminist Intercultural Theology: Latina Explorations for a Just World*, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2007).

A native of Cuba, she was raised in New York, lived in Texas for twenty years, and lived in Lexington, KY prior to returning to NYC, to which she emigrated with her parents when she was three years old. Dr. Machado has a great interest in the concept of "borderlands" which is a multilayered word that not only refers to a specific geographic location, but, for Latinas and other women of color, also refers to a social, economic, political, and personal location within the dominant culture. She is also a strong advocate for a comprehensive reform of current U.S. immigration laws.

**Continued on page 3.**

## Disciples Ordained Clergy Women *cont'd.*



**Rev. Sandhya Jha**

Sandhya Rani Jha is a native of Northampton, England whose mother is Scottish and father is Indian. She presently serves as Minister of the First Christian Church, Oakland, California, and is Minister of Transformation and Reconciliation for the Northern California-Nevada Region. She is Co-moderator of the Reconciliation Commission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and recently completed the work *Room at the Table: Struggle for Unity and Equality in Disciples History*. This book sums up what each of our cultures brings to the table – an offering to the entire church. She serves as New Beginnings Consultant at Church Extension and previously served as Religious Outreach Director at The Interfaith Alliance - DC.

Sandhya studied at Johns Hopkins University Sept. 1994-Jan. 1998, and received a BA degree. She completed a Master of Public Policy and M.Div. degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School in June 2005. She was ordained June 12, 2005 at the National City Christian Church, Washington, DC.

Prior to her call to First Christian the Region initiated 'Miracle Day.' People of every age came to work on repairs of the church, including the roof. This was a huge turning point for the congregation. Ben Bohren, Regional Minister, says "She has vision, energy, brilliance, and the ability to work with folks. She is Asian, multi-cultural and multi-racial

– there's a real connection. She will give them their best hope of revitalizing and transforming their congregation."

She is one of eight women whose works have been published in *NEW DAY Study Resources: Body and Soul*; she has preached at the afternoon business session of the General Assembly in 2005, written articles for *Disciples World*; and written a 15 page synopsis on different ethnic groups within the community. She has, by the grace of God, managed to accomplish much and has given much to the Christian Church in her 33 years.



### GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEARS!

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** -- Remember to register for the 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The General Assembly will be held from Wednesday, July 29, 2009 through Sunday, August 2, 2009 at the Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. The theme for the 2009 Assembly is "...for the Healing of the Nations", Revelation 22:2. You can register online at [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga).

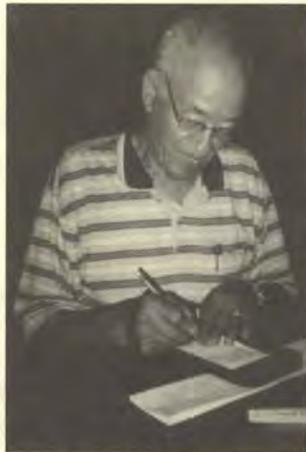
### GREAT COMMUNION

**CINCINNATI, OH** -- Members of the three Stone-Campbell families, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, and the Churches of Christ, are encouraged to worship together and share the Lord's Supper during the upcoming Great Communion celebration on October 4, 2009. They are being asked to do this to honor the 200th anniversary of founder Thomas Campbell's *Declaration and Address* -- a foundational document on Christian unity that was published in 1809.

To read the article in its entirety, see the May 2009 issue of the *Disciples World* magazine or go on line to [www.disciples.org/ccu/programs/stonecampbell/](http://www.disciples.org/ccu/programs/stonecampbell/)

## OSCAR'S NOTES

*From the Desk of the  
Contributing Editor*



As we Disciples prepare for our time together in Indianapolis on July 29 – August 2, we can

celebrate many nationwide accomplishments, beginning with the three awards won by Disciples World. During the Associated Church Press convention in May, Disciples World won the top award, the Award of Excellence, in the Editorial Courage category, for its January/February 2008 issue. In the category of Best in Class: Denominational Magazine, it placed second, winning the Award of Merit; and it received an Honorable Mention for the “Remembering Jonestown” story in the Theme Issue category. Friends of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine, be sure to stop by the Disciples World exhibit booth and congratulate the competent, hard-working editor/publisher Verity A. Jones and the staff for this outstanding accomplishment.

This leads me into a concern which has worried me for the past few years, and that is the decline of our free press. The fear began when my son, a veteran cameraman with ABC and later NBC, shared how management was cutting funding for the news department. It was only a few years later that newspapers began suffering. Over the past few years, many of the dailies began filing for bankruptcy. In a matter of months, such strong publications as Arizona’s oldest daily newspaper, the 138-year-old Tucson Citizen reported ceasing publication. Other affected daily publications were the Baltimore Examiner, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Rocky Mountain News.

Another dilemma was the rate at which wealthy, civic-minded individuals and families were selling out to powerful chains like Gannett and individuals who had control of radio networks in the same communities. Their goals

are to make money. The small publications began hurting when postage fees began rising about two years ago. Having spent most of my adult life involved in the print media -- newspapers, newsletters and magazines -- I am gravely concerned that they may become extinct. If enough citizens take action, this terrible loss can be avoided. Please support Free Press publications, especially the Disciples World and the Oldtimers’ Grapevine.

Another exciting world-wide event in which many Disciples were involved was the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama, the 44th President of the United States of America and the first African-American to hold the nation’s highest office. It was an exceptional time in my life because I had just turned 93 years old two days earlier. It was a gracious gift from God for me to live to see this moment in history.

On January 20, my wife Joan, Rev. Michael Yarbrough, our guest from Kansas City, MO, and I arose at 5:00 am. We dressed and headed for the Metro, one block from our home. The train was crowded at our stop but a lady gave me her seat, even over my objection. We were headed for a condo on Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, where we gathered with friends to watch the parade and, to my surprise, a feast and a cake for my birthday. On our way, we got off one train to transfer, were caught up in a horrendous crowd, and were being carried in the wrong direction.

There was a gentleman about 6’3” who saw me, so I worked my way over to get behind him, and he did clear the way for the three of us. This was a frightening time for even the police and security personnel. This gentle soul led us to an opening, and there a policeman put us on an elevator that led to a street where the crowd was moving. In the sub-zero freezing weather, it proved a blessing for me. From there we reached our destination unscathed. Let me add, I did have a cane, which we were sure influenced some of the courtesies. (This had been suggested by my friend and hostess Adina, which I resented and Joan didn’t.)

The outstanding spot where we watched the parade was just above the location where President

## OSCAR'S NOTES *cont'd.*

and Mrs. Obama stepped out of their limo and started walking. This had to be a blessing from God. I was about 90 feet from our 44th president, applauding along with thousands of others and thanking God for this prime time in history.

My thoughts went back to the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy, a cold, snowy day with big crowds. I remembered my involvement because of my connection with the Christian Brothers of the Catholic Church and my friend Tony Kelly, and his orchestra providing music for one of the presidential balls. Tony, now deceased, and I were both members of Twelfth Street Christian Church in the Nation's Capitol.

After the parade ended, my hosts Charles and Marcia Docter, their daughter Adina, and son-in-law Lawrence Yu started the birthday activities. It was a birthday party which I will long remember because it was a complete surprise. It was exciting to have Lawrence and Adina's son, 7-year-old Eli, join me in cutting the huge, colorful birthday cake.

The entire day was very much like the day when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his memorable "I Have A Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial. The only difference was the weather. The love of God touched every human being gathered, then, and this past January, as we saw beauty and friendliness in the face of every man, woman, and child. On this bitter cold day, January 20, 2009, it was thrilling for me to remember Dr. King's words, which rang in my ears 46 years ago in such a bountiful outpouring of joy and peace.



## A BUFFALO SOLDIER REMEMBERS



As told to  
**Doris Daugherty,  
Joyce Knox, and  
Oscar Haynes.**

James Harden "Pat" Daugherty is a former Buffalo Soldier, and author of the newly published *Buffalo Saga*. In World War II, he served our country as a soldier in the army's 92nd Infantry Division in the European theater. Those soldiers were known as the Buffalo Soldiers in a unit made up of African Americans. They fought for freedom abroad, even though they were denied freedom at home. Their service was outstanding from late 1944 until the end of the war, with many casualties. Mr. Daugherty was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement and a Combat Infantryman Badge for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy.

In sharing this true story of hope and change, Daugherty believes that this and other Buffalo Soldier stories will add momentum toward the eradication of prejudice and discrimination. The *Buffalo Saga* is just one of the many gripping stories that portray the past's role and influence in the present. The fact that this year is the 65th anniversary of "D Day" in World War II adds another dimension to the Buffalo Soldiers' living historic contribution.

The author relates four personal miracles that remain outstanding in his memory as a blessing from God that kept him alive.

***Continued on page 6.***

## A BUFFALO SOLDIER REMEMBERS *cont'd.*

\* The senior soldier had been shot by a sniper. Sam had injured his back. The author was OK. Many shells had fallen close to us. We had to leave this area. We walked through fires of hell as though we were already dead.

\* Fellow soldiers stared at me in amazement. A fragment of steel, sparkling in the sunlight, was wedged in my steel helmet. The piece of shrapnel had punched a hole in my helmet liner and stopped one fourth of an inch from penetrating my head. I still have this helmet.

\* The order had arrived -- about 300 men, in the dark of night, should walk up a mountain, capture an enemy soldier, and return. There he was, sitting behind a machine gun. He was guarding a cave of sleeping enemy soldiers. He did not fire his weapon. I captured him and withdrew down the mountain. Why did he not shoot me?

\* We had taken hills X, Y and Z. We were ready to swoop down into the valley and capture a small town. I heard our supporting artillery fire coming from our rear. One shell fell short. It was a direct hit on our company post, where our captain, six other men and I were assembled. Five men died almost immediately. The captain was severely wounded. I did not have a scratch. Why?

James Harden "Pat" Daugherty is a native Washingtonian and a longtime Silver Spring, MD resident. He was the first African American elected countywide to serve on the Montgomery County School Board, and later served for many years in a governor-appointed position at the Maryland School for the Deaf. He retired from an administrative position in the United States Public Health Service. He is married to Dorothy Ward Daugherty, and has four sons and six grandchildren.

He is a lifetime Disciple, having been born into the Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Washington, DC. He resides in Montgomery County and is a longtime loyal associate member of Heritage Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Silver Spring, MD.



## THE POET'S CORNER

### The Child – A Wonder

It pleases me so to hold a child's tiny hand;  
To help teach, to talk, to walk,  
to stand.

You feel like a million to see innocent eyes  
And enjoy much their laughter  
when there's a surprise.

The sparkle and trust you see in their face  
makes you thank the Lord  
for His love and His grace.

I remember often of being little, quite small.  
Grown-ups around me seemed so big,  
so tall.

There was so many things I wanted to know;  
so many questions as I started to grow.

I asked questions many, galore –  
when in hearing the answer,  
yearned to hear more:

Why the sun was so bright and why water was wet?  
Why the moon could be seen in the midst of day – yet?

Why the fiery sun would disappear, run away,  
But could run so fast he'd return again  
Each day.

And isn't that the way little people are!  
Bright like the sun, sparkly like a star;  
Wordy and changeable, curiosity filled....

The Child – A Wonder  
with the Master's Seal.

May Reed  
Written Mother's Day  
May 10, 2009

## Faith to Faith (Ministry In Partnership)

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16)

On May 3, 2009, the Disciple Men’s Fellowship of Twelfth Street Christian Church surprised the Reverend Brenda Caldwell and the congregation at Pilgrimage Christian Church by presenting the church with a new lawn mower and other new landscaping tools. Members of the Disciple Men’s Fellowship of Twelfth Street are known to be “agents of good will” helping to provide wherever and whenever there is a need. The Reverend Dr. Paul H. Saddler, Pastor of Twelfth Street Christian Church, Deacon Earl Webster, President of the Disciple Men’s Fellowship, and Church Moderator Haywood Vaughn led a convoy from Twelfth Street to Pilgrimage, arriving in time to share the Lord’s Supper. Before the benediction, Reverend Caldwell invited Dr. Saddler to bring greetings from Twelfth Street. Dr. Saddler then invited Moderator Vaughn and Deacon Webster to make the presentation of the new and needed lawn care equipment. Deacon Webster expressed the pleasure of presenting these gifts on behalf of the Men’s Fellowship at Twelfth Street. “For over 20 years, Reverend Caldwell has been everything to everybody. This is the least we can do to help our sister church as they remain faithful to the good works of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” With grace, Reverend Caldwell shared humble and moving words of appreciation on behalf of the Pilgrimage family, and noted the many years of the two congregations have worked together.



**ABOVE:** From left to right: Elder Vandy Miller, Pastor Paul Saddler, Deacon Earl Webster of Twelfth Street CC; Pastor Brenda Caldwell, Pilgrimage CC; Elder Haywood Vaughn, Twelfth Street; Elder Clifford Brown and Jerome Taylor of Pilgrimage and Jerrod Johnson and Ricky Davis of Twelfth Street.



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## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



**Macon, GA** - Mrs. Evelyn Slappy Wilson was born March 14, 1911, in Twiggs County, Georgia, to the parentage of Zeter and Lizzie Sanders Slappy. She departed this life on Monday, April 20, 2009.

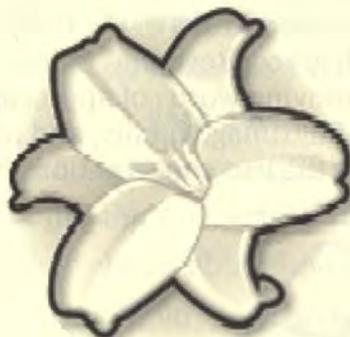
She was married to Willie Wilson for 60 years, and to the union one daughter was born. She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, and sisters Janie Fair, Mary Troutman, and Elizabeth Exum.

At an early age, she accepted Christ as her personal Savior. Evelyn was an ordained minister and a dedicated member of the Christ Temple Fire Baptize Holiness Church. To see Evelyn, you saw a true soldier of God's army, one who was a leader and one who was an inspiration to others. She believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and shared her belief with many. She was quiet and reserved, but when she spoke, she spoke with compassion and a spirit of love that she spread to others. She had a light that drew people to her. She never met a stranger, and she shared her love through hugs. Evelyn (Granny) was a devout Atlanta Braves fan and she loved the beauty of flowers

She is survived by a loving daughter and son-in-law, Evelyn Wilson (Walter L., Sr.) Bell; grandchildren Rosalind F. Scott, Reverend Joan (Oscar) Bell-Haynes, Elaine I. Bell, Clara A. (Ronald) Thrower, Yvette Bell, Theresa R. Bell, and Walter L. (Patricia) Bell, Jr.; great-



grandchildren Tamara S. (Varrick) Horton, Myles Ryan Scott, Talena N. Coker, Erskine J. Smith, Torrey T. Bell, and Tamellah T. Bell; and seven great-great-grandchildren. She is survived by two sisters, Pauline Turner and Lucy Booze; two brothers, Zeter Slappy, Sr. and Dan Slappy; and a host of nephews, nieces, and friends.



## The Oldtimers' HEALTHVINE

### Heartburn

Heartburn ... Acid indigestion ... reflux ... sour stomach. These are some of the terms used for a burning or painful feeling in the chest and sometimes it has a bitter taste in the mouth. Often, heart problems have some of the same symptoms, so when these these symptoms occur, you should talk with your physician.

When you have "heartburn", acid is produced in the stomach and sometimes moves up into the esophagus (the tube that connects the throat to the stomach). When this happens, you may feel a burning sensation that begins at the chest and moves up the throat.

Heartburn can be caused by any of the following:

- \* Eating large portions
- \* Stress
- \* Wearing tight clothes/belts
- \* Fatty and greasy foods
- \* Spicy foods
- \* Tomatoes, chocolate, mints
- \* Eating before going to bed
- \* Smoking
- \* Pregnancy
- \* Lying down after eating
- \* Alcohol, coffee, tea, soda
- \* Some medications such as Advil, Aleve, aspirin
- \* A hiatal hernia

How to relieve heartburn:

- \* Change bad eating habits
- \* Reduce your stress
- \* Take antacids
- \* Suck on hard candy
- \* Sleep on your left side
- \* Elevate your head while sleeping

More information can be found in the Kaiser Permanente health handbook.

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

### OVERHEARD

A kindergarten teacher was observing her class of children while they drew.

She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied,

"They will in a minute."

## READERS' COMMENT CORNER

OTG Staff,  
Words are not adequate at this moment to convey my appreciation for receiving the Grapevine. Thank you!

Betty Carter  
St. Louis, MO

You do a great job!

Wendy Bayer of  
Pilgrim Place  
Claremont, CA

Dear Joyce and Doris,  
Narka and I cannot begin to express to you and others involved on the Grapevine staff our appreciation for your excellent work in telling the story of my father's confrontation of the Klan in 1924. It was very kind of Oscar to pass the information on to you and I'm grateful for Ellen Crowder's conscientious persistence in contacting me about the article.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Reverends William S. and Narka K. Ryan  
Baltimore, MD

Dear Mrs. Knox,  
May God bless you for the outstanding service you are giving to publish The Oldtimers' Grapevine.

The Oldtimers' Grapevine is very informative and very inspirational.

Yours in His Service,  
Dr. James & Dr. Giley Griffin  
Dallas, TX

Dear Joyce,  
Congratulations are in order, however quite belated, for you as our managing editor. It is truly great to always have a competent personality to fill a position -- once it becomes vacant.

Love,  
Ruth P. Hobbs  
Clinton, MS

Dear Oscar,  
I had the opportunity of receiving the 18th birthday edition of The Oldtimers' Grapevine and a big CONGRATULATIONS. It has been 18 years of you and the staff providing valuable information and keeping us always abreast of what is going on in these complex times.

May the Lord give you lots of health so you and the staff can continue to keep us updated.

May the Lord continue His blessings.

Sincerely,  
Martin Hernandez

To: Grapevine Personnel,  
For all that you do, Thanks.

Shirley Compton  
Louisville, KY  
Davie, FL

Hi - When The Oldtimers' Grapevine arrives at the Christian Church in Kansas's regional office, many eyes enjoy reading the various articles. Especially interesting in the Jan-Mar issue is the article on 'Confronting the Klan.' High Fives and Congratulations to OTG for 17 years of service!

Susan White  
Admin. Asst.  
Christian Church in Kansas

*Editor's note: It is wonderful to have feedback from our readers. It makes the staff feel great and gives us a boost to know that we are keeping you abreast of the many wonderful people who have worked and continue to work diligently with the different programs, ministries, etc., that take place in our churches. Thank you and continue to let us know how we are doing.*

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Dr. Ernest J. & Dr. Janice R. Newborn, Claremont, CA; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Martin & Mrs. Celia Hernandez, Davie, FL; Dr. William S. & Mrs. Narka K. Ryan, Baltimore, MD; Ms. Bess R. Terry, New York, NY; Reverend Lois Artis, Silver Spring, MD; Reverend Dr. James O. & Dr. Giley Nixon Griffin, Dallas, TX; Dr. Thomas J. Liggett, Claremont, CA; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary Jane Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS; Reverend Dr. Paul & Mrs. Mary Crow, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, St. Louis, MO; Ms. Shirley Compton, Louisville, KY; Mr. Charles E. McGee, Bethesda, MD; Mr. Albert, Jr. & Mrs. Laura Squire, Hyattsville, MD; Mrs. Emily LaModue Jackson, Memphis, TN; Dr. Harold Dungan, Rockville, MD; Mr. Charles & Mrs. Wendy Bayer, Claremont, CA; Mrs. Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Denise Olmsted, Raymore, MO; Dr. & Mrs. William J. Nottingham, Highlands Ranch, CO; Ms. Karen J. Yount, Raymore, MO; Mr. Ralph & Mrs. Jean Keller, Raymore, MO; Ms. Betty Carter, St. Louis, MO; Mr. Eugene n. & Mrs. Bonnie L. Frazier, Raymore, MO; Ms. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS; Reverend William C. & Mrs. Mary H. Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Mr. Curt & Mrs. Becky Jones, Angel Fire, NM; Reverend Arzolla Phillips, Knoxville, TN; Mr. Donald M. Wharff, Raymore, MO; Reverend Orval Holt, Fort Worth, TX; Reverend Dr. Richard & Mrs. Mindy Hamm, Indianapolis, IN.

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Claremont, CA  
Kim Atwater, Health Editor  
Washington, DC  
Doris Daugherty, Treasurer  
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# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

July—September '09

Volume 18, Issue 3

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like angels; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40: 30 & 31 (NIV)

### **BLAIR HOUSE CHEF INSTRUCTS TEENS AT PILGRIMAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*By Crystal V. Washington*

Outstanding culinary talent was discovered on July 23, 2009, when Chef Lisa Redmond, Blair House Chef (the official State Guest House for the U.S. President) and three teenage boys presented a gourmet meal of Chicken Cordon Bleu, Fresh Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables Au Gratin and Vanilla Fruit Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting to invited guest at Pilgrimage Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), Suitland, MD.

This event was the wrap-up of the Summer Enrichment Program for youth of the congregation. The meal was enjoyed by over two dozen church members, community and church leaders. The three young men, with the professional guidance of Chef Redmond, are Calvin Pinkney, Christopher Pinkney and Andrea Lowery. All three are high school students. These three young men unanimously agreed that Chef Lisa taught them a lot about proper food handling and preparation techniques. They explained that she gave them cooking tips for "each dish we prepared."

**continued on page 2**



*Chef Lisa Redmond*

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## Blair House Chef cont'd

Chef Redmond was extremely complimentary of their ability in preparing this excellent gourmet meal. This personable 43-year-old chef said "their confidence led them to believe we are not just having fried chicken, we will prepare chicken cordon bleu." She also said, "these young men, growing up in a depressed community, were setting their sights on the finest."

This chef expressed surprise that all the youngsters who signed up for her cooking class were males, and was impressed with the scope of their ambition and skills. "They were attentive, followed directions and genuinely had passion for what they were doing. They were a pleasure to be around. I hope they learned as much as I did. I look forward to working with them again."

Rev. Brenda Cardwell, pastor, expressed her extreme pleasure over the impact Chef Redmond had in the 2009 Summer Enrichment program. The idea came from the mother of Chef Redmond, Mrs. Shirley Redmond, retired community activist, who met Rev. Brenda when she arrived at Pilgrimage more than 20 years ago. Rev. Brenda tells the story of how she was out knocking on doors in the neighborhood and Mrs. Redmond came to the door and invited her into her home. Although she never became a member she has always supported Rev. Brenda and the congregation.

Chef Redmond is a native of East Orange, NJ, who moved to Washington at an early age, she is a graduate of H.D. Woodson High School. Following a year at Howard University she moved to Prince George's Community College and from there into the corporate world. In 1996 she followed her love for cooking and for the next three years handled the food service at Fed Ex Field for the Washington Redskins.

Her employment has also included a couple of restaurants and for 10 years she worked for the Washington Convention Center and a short stint with BET. She had been on call status at the Blair House for 4 years and is now on regular staff and must be there when guests are in the house. She has been so much in demand that she spent 18 months at Gaylord Hotel at the National Harbor and the Verizon Center to help a former chef she worked with.

Rev. Brenda and the Summer Enrichment committee have already solicited the help of Chef Lisa Redmond to provide a cooking class for 2010 and this time hope to enroll some of their young female members.



Chefs in training at  
Pilgrimage Christian Church

## AGE DOES NOT STOP BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

by Drs. Ernest & Janice Newborn

Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, 94-year-old sister of Mrs. Hilda Faulkner, did not let distance nor age discourage her travel from Clinton, MS to Claremont, CA in late June so she and her sister could be together to celebrate Hilda's 99th birthday. "My wife Janice and I were blessed that we could be with these two life-long friends to celebrate this rare event, said Rev. Ernest Newborn."

Hilda, Janice and I share membership in the same Disciples congregation here in Claremont. In 2004, the congregation presented Hilda with its highest honor: The CROSS and CROWN AWARD.



Ruth Hobbs, Ernest and Janice Newborn

Ruth's visit to Claremont provided an occasion for remembering and sharing mutual interest and experiences as colleagues in the church's mission. Our friendship started sev-

eral years ago when Ruth and Hilda were students and Rev. Dr. William K. Fox was a professor and chaplain at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS. In later years Ruth and I provided leadership with the Disciples' Reconciliation Ministry. Ruth also gave strong support to local and general Christian Women's Fellowship programs during the period Janice served as Executive Director, Office of Disciples Women.



The birthday lady, Mrs. Hilda Faulkner

On February 20, 2010. Hilda Faulkner will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ruth's faith leads her to say that she will again join Hilda and other family members and friends for this birthday celebration.

Janice and I wish our Sister-in-Christ Hilda, God's continuing love and grace!

## MICHIGAN PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES THEIR 114TH ANNIVERSARY by Rev. Michael Paige

What is now known as Michigan Park Christian Church (MPCC) emerged from humble beginnings when the missionary activities of groups of the Vermont Avenue (now National City) and Ninth Street (now Henson Valley and Heritage) Christian Churches organized a Sunday School at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Maryland Avenue, Southwest in 1895. The following year, the Christian Missionary Society of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia called Reverend W. J. Wright of Cincinnati, Ohio as its evangelist to develop the Sunday School into a mission church. On September 4, 1896, Reverend Wright began holding services in a tent pitched at 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  and K Streets, Southwest. Twenty-five days later, the tent was destroyed by a wind storm, and the twenty-two member congregation moved into Mechanic's Hall at 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  and G Streets, Southwest, where it remained for four months before relocating to the third floor of a blacksmith's shop on the corner of 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  and M Streets, Southwest. During the eighteen months at the latter location, the congregation increased by nearly two hundred members.

In 1899, with the help of the National Society of Church Extension, the congregation purchased and relocated to what Reverend Wright called, "the abode of the spirits," a former beer bottling establishment at 6<sup>th</sup> and H Streets, Southwest. With a congregation consisting of one hundred fifty members and a Sunday School of one hundred forty, the school held services in the chapel built on the upper floor of the establishment.

Although the congregation bought the property with the intention of constructing a new building, it took fifteen years before it was able to complete construction on the first unit, the Sunday School building, in 1914; and it did not build the sanctuary until 1922. The dedication service was held on April 2, 1922. When a survey conducted in the 1930's indicated that ninety percent of the membership had moved to other parts of the city, the congregation began considering whether to relocate to another area. The congregation wrestled with that decision for years before finally selling the H Street building in 1944, and purchasing the present site at South Dakota Avenue and Taylor Street, Northeast in 1945. Pending construction of a new building, the congregation began holding afternoon services in the Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Fessenden Streets, Northwest. However, in order to be near the location of the new site, the congregation moved to the King David Masonic Temple at 12<sup>th</sup> and Monroe Streets, Northeast in 1946.

On October 15, 1949, ground was broken for the new building; and on February 25, 1950, the cornerstone was laid. The first services were held in the new building on August 13, 1950, and the dedication service was held on September 24, 1950. The name Michigan Park Christian Church, formerly Third Christian Church was adopted. A second unit, an educational building consisting of eight classrooms, was built in 1958-1959, and was dedicated on April 19, 1959. Construction on the main sanctuary occurred in the period from 1967 to 1968, and the cornerstone was laid on March 17, 1968. On Easter, 1968, the first service was held in the main sanctuary; and the dedication service was held on April

21, 1968. Ten years later, on June 4, 1978, the mortgage was burned.

More than a dozen ministers shepherded the congregation from the period of 1896 to 1949. In 1949, Rev. Arthur A. Azlein was called to the pastorate of the church, and served with great distinction in that capacity until retiring, thirty-three years later. During those years, the congregation changed from an all-white to a predominantly African American membership. The marker event was the 1954 Supreme Court desegregation decision, *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, which precipitated rapid integration of the surrounding area coupled with the departure of whites from the neighborhood and the church.

In 1985, Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter became the first African American and first female Pastor. She has led the congregation through a major transition and revitalization. This transformation has touched all areas of MPCC's life and witness, while maintaining a consistent attendance and greatly increasing its financial stewardship. A fourth building, The Center for Ministry Development, has been added and paid for. Over fifty new ministries have been launched. These reach from our doorsteps to around the globe, especially to Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Rev. Michael Page

As we celebrate together the 114<sup>th</sup> year of

our Church and the 5<sup>th</sup> year of me serving as Executive Minister, I am grateful and appreciative of the opportunity to minister to the congregation here at MPCC. Over the last five years much change has taken place in the world and in our own country. We have seen the dismantling of world leaders, the crumbling of financial institutions, and the nomination and election of the first African American as President in the United States of America. Although much has changed, there are things that have not. One thing that has remained constant is me being as excited, honest, loyal, compassionate and committed to serving as Executive Minister as when I first assumed the responsibility.

While serving, I have grown closer to the members of MPCC. We have worked together through many exciting occasions (Pastor's Anniversary, mortgage liquidation, special services to honor our members) and through some stressful and sad moments (legal issues, death of dedicated members and announcement of our Pastor's retirement). Working together as a team has made the entire church body stronger. I am deeply humbled to have the opportunity to serve under a great and distinguished leader, friend and mighty woman of God, Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter. Under her leadership I have grown stronger and wiser in the service of the Lord. Her thoughtfulness and implementation of the bi-annual anniversary celebration for me as Executive Minister is a testament to her commitment to encouraging and making others better.

Thank you for welcoming me and my family with open arms. Thank you for the love, respect, and generosity that all have shown to us. Thank you for the nurture that you have given to us. May you and your family continue to claim the best that God has for you.

## OSCAR'S NOTES

From the Desk of the  
Contributing Editor



Americans were being bombarded with unsettling news leading up to the death of Senator Ted Kennedy. Senator Kennedy had the most prominent voice in our country in addressing social injustices for more than four decades. One of the Senator's life long efforts was making healthcare affordable for everyone. He believed healthcare was a right and not a privilege. As President Barack Obama stepped up his campaign for health care reform there has been an open and dangerous kind of hate spreading across the Nation.

The voices and acts of proponents of hate are over -powering the voices of love and peace. I am thankful for this email from a friend, Josie Meeks, who asked that the email keep going. It included this prayer: "Lord, we pray for optimum health, mental clarity and political prosperity for President Obama. We pray that what he lacks in political 'experience' you make up for with supernatural wisdom and power.

We also pray that when his enemies come upon him they will stumble and fall; and that your love will fill his heart to the end that 'Your will' be done through him. In Jesus Precious Name, Amen.

I can never recall in my lifetime any President whom I remember, from Herbert Hoover to George W. Bush, who experienced the insults and visible armed

threats as President Obama. During speeches across the country armed men are seen mixing with boisterous protesters. During a late August event in Portsmouth, N.H., a man had a gun strapped to his leg and a sign that read: "It's time to water the tree of liberty." How frightening and dangerous to the peace and welfare of this country

This disrespect of the first African American president of the United States entered the hallowed halls of Congress during the delivery of his speech to a joint session of Congress when Republican Congressman Joe Wilson from South Carolina rudely yelled "you lie". What an obnoxious act on the part of an elected official with fate of the people in their hands..

Such action certainly reminds Americans of the great loss we suffered in the death of Senator Ted Kennedy. Arianna Huffington of the Huffington Post quoted civil rights leader John Lewis, who spoke of Kennedy's death as "something died in America." Arianna Huffington, added, "something else has died in America: the national conversation about what the Bible calls "for the least among us." It's been missing for a while. Kennedy's passing reminds us how much we need to revive it – and make it central to the political debate.

Ms. Huffington reminds us that Kennedy's best speeches spoke to our idealism, calling us to tap into the better angels of our nature. She recalls him being behind many legislative milestones from Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the

## Oscar's Notes cont'd

Serve the America Act of 2009, which increases the number of people able to take part in national service programs”

Early in President Obama's run for the office of president, Senator Kennedy endorsed him and even with health problems campaigned for him. He has been at the forefront of health care legislation, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which covers more than seven million children from low-income families.

May the prayer of all Americans be for the safety of the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and all members of congress be advocates of love and peace toward all people.



## TWELFTH STREET CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

by Minister Joy Majied

On June 23, 2009, Twelfth Street Christian Church gave birth to its Outreach Ministry in the form of Twelfth Street Community Services, Inc., (TSCS) a non-profit corporation formed in the District of Columbia to promote healthy and successful development of youth and families. TSCS is designed to assist families to reach their full potential and to succeed as productive citizens able to contribute to their local communities and the global marketplace. The **Stone-Campbell Educational Academy** is designed to help students develop a strong foundation and appreciation for learning, personal responsibility and academic achievement. The **Preston Taylor Career & Financial Literacy and Family Stability Institute** is designed to nurture each individual by building their literacy potential and strengthening family relationships through education and family development activities.

What a great time!

On Wednesday, July 15, 2009

12<sup>th</sup> Street Community Services, Inc. and Twelfth Street Christian Church (DOC) took over 23 youth and chaperones to The Great Blacks in Wax Museum and the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland.

At 9:00 a.m. sharp, The Stone-Campbell Educational Academy of 12<sup>th</sup> Street Community Services ventured to Baltimore for their very first educational activity, a guided tour of over 100 life-like historic and contemporary figures of African ancestry at The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler welcomed us on this maiden voyage, lifted up a “traveler’s prayer. Minister Joy Majied passed out “Family

Fun Guide” and provided an overview of the educational objectives and what to expect, along with our “Seek and Find” activity. All who participated received a prize at the end of the trip. Questions covered, the Journey to Freedom, The Slavery Era, Emmett Till, and Outstanding Marylanders.

Upon our arrival at The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, we were honored to meet one of the founders, Dr. Joanne Martin, who was being interviewed by Seagull TV for a travel channel documentary highlighting the 10 “Must See” stops along US Highway 1. Our own, Minister Joy Majied, was also interviewed. Our tour guide retired school teacher Ms. Reba Bullocks, provided a wealth of background information, solicited and responded to numerous questions, and challenged us to recall some great historical moments.



After a wonderful and insightful tour, we headed to Inner Harbor for lunch and more fun. Our first stop was The Fudgery. The Fudgery provided a demonstration of how fudge is made, and then gave all of us samples.

Everyone was then instantly hungry, so we proceeded to Johnny Rockets, a 1930's style restaurant.

On the bus we had great discussions on our tour, played the “Seek & Find” Family Fun Guide, received prizes and arrived back in D.C. at 4:00 p.m. Fun was had by ALL—our youngest 3 and our oldest 92 – WOW!

## THE POET'S CORNER

### We'll Give Them A Rose Garden

A plant of the genus Rosa. It grows both wild and cultivated;  
rare in beauty.

From ancient time

A favorite in art and poetry.

What other could cover more beautifully, more fragrantly  
the earth upon which these souls perished – died.

What other flower could guard with thorn and pinnate leaf.

What other would blossom with color that eases the heart,  
the mind's much grief.

The Romans used its petals for medicines;

In modern time sexes/perfume.

The red rose of England, the emblem of royalty 'twas  
displayed bountifully upon its grounds and in the

House of Lancaster;

while the House of York proudly donned the brilliant white  
rose,

perched about like priceless alabaster.

The Rose, state flower first for .

No. Dakota, New York and Iowa

But now our nation's favored bloom.

The ROSE and none other could manage such a sight;  
such magnificent, budding, beauteous, impressive showering  
loom.

Henceforth, these who lie beneath this bed of beauty,

who gave their all beyond life's duty;

In each new year when Spring beckons to nature's call,

these roses, many, will

again and again break open the earth,

waving boldly, tall.

Sue Casey, your thoughts “We'll give them a garden”

placed a budding a-growing inside my heart and a planting of  
poetry from

God to impart.

**May Reed**

**Written Aug. 18, 2009**

ARE YOU A DIAPER OR A  
DEVELOPING DISCIPLE

by Rev. Dr. Rosetta Robinson



A funny and not so funny thing happened a few months ago at North Chevy Chase Christian Church (NC4) during a conversation with one of the elders. The Regional Office of the Christian Church-Capital Area (CC-CA) is relocating from Wheaton, Maryland to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of NC4. As a member of the CC-CA Trustees, Regional Minister Lari Grubbs apprised me of the final negotiations for the move at General Assembly. The following Sunday, Elder Rev. Dr. Laird Thomason and Deacon William Wydrow, showed me the rooms that would become the new office space. As we walked along the halls, Rev. Thomason began talking about the congregation's beginnings as Columbia Heights Christian Church in Washington, DC in the 1920's, and Wydrow's birth to parents who joined the church during the early days. I immediately thought of the term cradle Catholics. I turned to William and said, I guess you were a "diaper Disciple." Now when Brother Laird heard my comment, he laughed and laughed and laughed.

I was well past the diaper stage when I joined Saint Mary Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ in Brooklyn, New York, at the age of 11. I can truly say that I took my first

baby steps as a "developing Disciple" at this historic Assembly church. As I grew in faith, I came to love the Disciples' church and to seek to remain a Disciple.

A 2009 Pew Study of mainline denominations (including Disciples) found that youth and young adults are more likely to leave their childhood church or denomination during their young years. Fifty and over churchgoers and those who attended church regularly as children were less likely to switch denominations. The reasons respondents said they changed affiliations: found another faith they liked better; marriage or other family demands; or they moved to a new community. Those who became unaffiliated said they stopped believing in their childhood faith or most religious; yet they also reported being open to finding another faith group. I wonder if our denominational modesty, church polity, and strong commitment to Christian unity have made it easy for our young to become something else.

I may be the first Disciple to use such funny sounding phrases as "diaper Disciple or developing Disciple." Nevertheless, I think they help articulate my point. Nurturing young Disciples to maturity as well as helping members who relocate to new communities maintain their Disciple ties, may help slow our membership decline. Moreover, there is a compelling need for a variety of discipleship classes, social ministries, services, small community gatherings, and prayer groups, in homes, colleges, and churches to support the worship and spiritual needs of Disciples. I am so glad that our 21<sup>st</sup> century visioning includes planting new churches, especially in areas where Disciples congregations or

campus ministries are underrepresented. We may also benefit from soliciting feedback from our numerous adult converts (in our pews and in our pulpits) for ideas to strengthen our evangelism efforts. Suppose we do all this and our young and other precious members fall away anyway. We have the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6 to remind us that the fruit of our planting and watering belongs to God. So as God gives the increase, let's teach and reach new generations of Disciples with joy and thanksgiving. What do you think?



## REFLECTIONS OF THE 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

by Minister Joy Majied

The 2009 General Assembly of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was attended by over 6,000 Disciples in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 29 – August 2<sup>nd</sup> under the theme: “...for the Healing of the Nations” (Rev. 22:1-5). Through this theme, President Watkins, says the assembly is designed to help us embody that self-understanding.

As a first time attendee of the General Assembly, I found myself in the midst of a sea of every race, cultural, and ethnic group of all ages, along with Disciples leaders from over a dozen countries. The weather was unseasonably delightful, the speakers were fantastic, the worship experience was meaningful and heartfelt, and the business meetings and the rallies were high-spirited and passionate. Hundreds rallied for Health Care and the Care for our Troops, Doctors urged Disciples to take care of the earth, Youth were provided a unique opportunity to “Shadow a Disciples Leader”, and there were over 90 exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall with a wealth of resources.

There was definitely something there for everybody. There were numerous opportunities for anyone and everyone to find their way of “seeking out” and/or sharing the “Love of Christ” at the Assembly. If your hearts desire was for deep dialogue on the future direction of the Church and the newly stated identity statement: “We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us,” then, the Wholeness Café was your answer. It provided an opportunity for face-to-face conversations in

## General Assembly cont'd

small groups around five topic areas identified through a survey for in-depth discussion. And, the Resource Groups and Learning Tracks provided practical and easily application learning experiences.

If your desire was for more “hands-on” mission work, then you could join over 300 other Disciples that painted classrooms, planted gardens or cleaned up city parks. Disciples youth also participated in several service projects. If time or your health prevented your active participation in service projects, then you could participate in the Food Drive to Combat Hunger by donating canned goods while attending Sunday morning Worship service in the community. Or, you could learn to make the ancient art of making a labyrinth and how to effectively use it for meditation and prayer.

If you needed a “Word” from the Lord, then the powerful and thought-provoking sermons through voice and song by the many powerful men and women of the Gospel, surely filled your Spirit. From the opening sermon by Rev. Cynthia Hale of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Atlanta, Georgia, “We are a Piece of Work”, through President Watkins, “Circle of Caring” and ending with Rev. Frank Thomas of Mississippi Blvd Christian Church, “Suddenly” which served as a clarion call for Disciples to seek a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Revival—the messages were poignant and provocative. The Worship Leaders, Choirs and Ministry through Song were absolutely outstanding and Spirit-filled.

And lastly, if your need was to address the many issues facing the Church, the Business Meetings and Rallies were places to express and challenge the status quo. There were fourteen (14) each Resolutions and General

Ministry Reports and Audit. And though there were many difficult issues, they were handled with passion, compassion and empathy.

And for those who just wanted to meet up with old friends and colleagues—then that happened everyday, all day. There were more genuine hugs, pat-on-the-backs “haven’t seen you in ages” almost everywhere you went. The joy on their faces and happiness in their hearts were evident and overflowing. How good it is to see all of God’s children in unity.



## **DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP**

**LYONS, TX** - Installation service for Rev. Dock Ulysses Agustas Lawson Richard P Reese, Jr. was held Sunday, July 10, 2009 at St. James Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Lyons, TX. Rev. Reese served as an Associate Minister under Rev. Walter Nix, Sr. (who resigned because of declining health) and as an Interim Pastor of the church. He received and accepted an official call to serve as Pastor of St. James in February 2009. Rev. Reese is passionate about doing God's will as he teaches and guides the parishioners from God's word.

He graduated from engineering school in Topeka, KS and is enrolled in the Department of Ministry (Bluebonnet Regional Area) Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX. He is married to the former Josephine Moore and they have been blessed with six children.

**GRANTHAM, PA--** Leadership Changes—Dr. Lawrence Burnley, Associate Dean for Multicultural Programs & Special Assistant to the Provost for Diversity Affairs, Messiah College, 1 College Ave., Grantham, PA, beginning in January, 2010, will begin serving as Assistant Vice President for Intercultural Affairs and Assistant Professor of History at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN--** Rev. April Johnson, Minister of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has stepped up her congregational visits since the General Assembly promoting the annual Reconciliation offering. The theme this year is “Many

Members-One Table.” The offerings will be held this year on Sunday, September 27 and October 9, 2009.

Rev. Johnson is a graduate of the School of Divinity, Howard University, Washington, DC. She brings a deep passion for racial understanding, justice and compassion in the church's program to eliminate racism in our society. Your financial support is encouraged and certainly greatly appreciated.

**DECATUR, GA- -** Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, senior pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, has been appointed to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships

Dr. Hale, current board member of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter will be serving with such prominent national leaders as General Wesley Clark, Senator Thomas Daschle and journalist Tom Brokaw. She is also observing her 30th year in ministry.

**WASHINGTON, DC--** Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter, Senior Pastor of Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC will be observing her 50th year in the ministry on May 21, 2010. Over the past 25 years she has provided outstanding clergy to this congregation which offers a ministry of excellent lay leadership. Michigan Park's past is one of not only integration, but full transition in many ways. Retirement festivities are scheduled for December 6, 2009.

Disciples Round-Up cont'd

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**—You can Extend the Witness to Disciples congregations by taking advantage of this great new investment rate!

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—Vyrle Brown, Hannibal, Mo.

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## READERS' COMMENT CORNER

### Dear Everyone,

I feel connected with my past when I read the Oldtimers' Grapevine. Please keep up the good work.

Truly,

Louise Harris Owens

Baltimore, MD

Thanks for the memories that give glimpses into our past.

Daisy R. Chambers

Winston-Salem, NC

### Dear Joyce & Doris

We appreciate what you and the others are doing to keep the information flow among Disciples. Give our warm regards to Oscar, et al.

Harold R. (Hal) & Evelyn Watkins

Indianapolis, IN

### Dear Doris:

First and foremost, I want to thank the Oldtimers' staff for an excellent article.

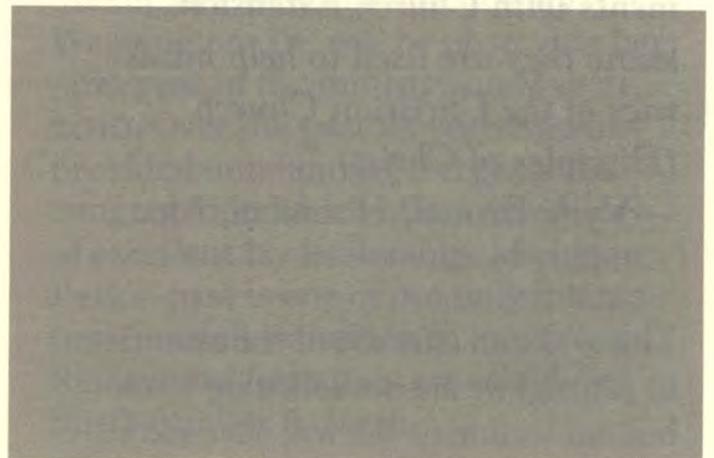
I write in reference to the Daugherty, Knox and Haynes story, "A Buffalo Soldier Remembers". I wish to convey my humble and heartfelt appreciation to the staff for sharing with the Oldtimers'

Grapevine readers my newly published book, "The Buffalo Saga", a story about the heroism, courage and sacrifice of the Army's 92nd Infantry Division, the only African-American division-strength unit, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, who fought in the European Theater in World War II.

Sincerely,

James & Dorothy Daugherty

Silver Spring, MD



# The Oldtimers' HEALTHVINE

## ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is doing something or failing to do something that results in harm to an elderly person or puts older people at risk of harm. Elder abuse often happens within the family. It also happens in hospitals and nursing homes. Every state within the United States has laws against elder abuse.

**Abuse and Neglect** —Abuse is the harmful treatment of people, ranging from rough handling to insulting or coarse language. Neglect is failure to provide goods, ie: food, shelter and services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness.

Every year, 2.1 million Americans are victims of physical, psychological or other forms of abuse and neglect. For each elder abuse case filed, experts think that there are as many as five cases not reported. Ninety percent of elder abuse and neglect incidents are by known perpetrators, usually family members, and about two thirds are adult children and spouses. Spouses were the perpetrators in 24% of family murders of persons over age 60. The eldest seniors, 80 years and older, are abused and neglected at two to three times the rate of all other seniors (Bureau of Justice Statistics 9/28/2008). The types of abuse and their percentage of frequency are listed below:

Neglect	58.5%
Physical Abuse	15.7%
Final Exploitation	12.3%
Emotional Abuse	7.3%
Sexual Abuse	.04%
Other Types	5.1%

Do you know or suspect of some older adult who is being abused?

Call 911 or contact the National Center on Elder

Abuse in your local area.



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

## OVERHEARD

### The Talking Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to by an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede (100-legged bug) which came in a little white box to use for his house. So they went home and he found a nice spot for his new pet. He decided he would take his pet to church so the guy said to his pet, "hey, want to go to church with me today, we'll have a good time, but there was no answer. He waited a few minutes then asked his pet again, "hey we'll have a good time in church, you'll learn all about GOD, want to go with me?" Still no answer. This bothered the guy but he said he'll give it one more try so he put his face to the centipede's box and said "hey, I'm going to church want to go with me and receive a blessing?" This time, a little voice came from the box and said..."I heard you the first time, I'm putting on my shoes!"

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

### **AUGUSTA EDYTHE HUGHES-GRANT**

**August 22, 1916 – June 29, 2009**



Edythe was born an only child to Charles Melvin Hughes and Annie Loretta Taylor-Hughes and was reared in Denver, Colorado. She earned Sociology, Psychology and Education degrees at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master of Social Work at the University of Denver. In the 1940's she worked in Washington D.C. as Secretary for the Washington Urban League and then in Virginia and Ohio as Program Director for the National YWCA-USO. During the 1950's and 1960's she worked as a Social Worker in Public Assistance and Adoptions at the Denver Department of Welfare and at the Alameda County and Contra Costa County Welfare Departments in California. For ten years before retirement in 1981, she taught Sociology

and Social Work on the faculties at Park University in Parkville, Missouri, and Florida State University in Tallahassee. In 1981 she was employed as a Social Worker and then volunteered for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

In April, 1989, Edythe moved to Foxwood Springs from her home in Kansas City, Missouri. She worked part-time as a Social Work Consultant, funded by an Affirmative Action Grant from the National Benevolent Association. She was an active member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, from 1982 to 1990, where she was ordained as a Deacon and Elder, serving as Secretary of the Session. She was also an Ombudsman at the Swope Ridge Nursing Center, and served on the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity and the Foster Family Ministry. In April, 2003, she joined the Raymore Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Edythe is survived by her "adopted" grandchildren: Elijah, Aaron, Lauren and Kali Frazier; Jason Joseph; Sydra Monroe; and great grandchildren Joslynn and Nicole Joseph. Contributions in Edythe's honor may be made to the Fellowship of John at Foxwood Springs.

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL CONT'D

**RESTON, VA** - Quentin Henry Vaughan, Jr. was born on July 15, 1924 to Quentin Henry Vaughan, Sr. and Margaret Betts Vaughan in Brooklyn, NY, the eldest of three children. He attended West Virginia State, then volunteered in the Pacific campaign of World War II. He returned to attend Wayne State University in Detroit, MI on a tennis scholarship and later City College of New York. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Brooklyn Law School in 1951 and immediately passed the New York Bar. He remained a licensed attorney in good standing until his 1990 retirement as a lawyer for the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC).

Quentin began his law career in private practice in Brooklyn, NY. He later worked for the U. S. Attorney's office in New York City, and then became the first African-American attorney in the former Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). He left the ICC for the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission where he won a landmark civil rights case for the Black Memphis Truckers Union.

Although the law was his profession, tennis was his passion. As a member of the Boys & Girls Club of New York and several tennis circles, Quentin was able to meet and play with the legendary Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe. Living in Reston, VA since 1974, Quentin became an active member in the community after retirement.

He volunteered as an organizer for Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help, and was an administrative and cafeteria assistant at Crossfield Elementary School where his daughter Alexis was a student.



He loved his family at United Christian Parish and he loved making friends through the Disciples class.

Quentin Henry Vaughan, Jr. passed away peacefully at the Halquist Memorial Inpatient Center in Arlington, VA on June 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Sonja Herring Vaughan, and his three children, Quentin Henry Vaughan, III, Nicholas Miles Vaughan and Alexis Katya Vaughan. He was interred in Groover Cemetery, Monticello, Fl. He was preceded in death by his brother Leon, his sister Ethlyn and his best friend for almost 65 years and comrade-in-arms, Charles Nelson who passed away on June 8, 2009.

Quentin was a loving husband, devoted father and fiercely loyal friend who will be greatly missed.

## For Whom the Bells Toll cont'd

**MILWAUKEE, WI** -- Damon Charles Adams, the only child of Charles and Patricia Adams and nephew of the Grapevine's Board Chair, Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, had an insatiable appetite for life. He was an imposing 6' 5" giant that had the heart of a teddy bear.

From the age of 10 he attended school and grew up in Milwaukee. However, it was clear to those who knew Damon, that he remembered and loved his roots. He was born and raised in the 'Gateway to the West', St. Louis, MO. For every trip back to St. Louis, there were two must visit places, Church's Chicken and White Castle. When his aunt and grandmother asked him year-after-year what he wanted for Christmas, his response was, some athletic gear with the St. Louis Cardinals on it. Oh, and by the way, the license plate on his Dodge Magnum has U CITY on it, the St. Louis suburb, University City, where he grew up.

The little boy in him was always at play. Disney world was a world of adventure for Damon. He made no excuses about his desire to want to go there as often as he could. After being introduced to basketball at the age of 10, his love for playing the sport grew into a love for building a small business around athletic gear. So, in May 2006 he ventured out and opened Dame's Spot. He truly cherished the privilege of being self-employed and the opportunity to play his beloved video games when there were no customers.

Although no claim can be made that

of His a circle of friends that were believers and kept his spirit fed on the love of God. He had a mother that covered and prayed for him to know the one true living God that provides living water. And, in his own unique way, Damon exhibited the love of Christ in the way he carried himself and the way he treated people.

There is a framed picture of Damon that says 'Damon - Square' because he would often ask his friend and 'brother' Preston and his wife, "What are the 'squares' doing tonight?" Their retort was, "Well, you must be a square too since you like to hang out with squares." Yes, Damon Charles Adams was a square right up to the point of his demise on Saturday, August 15, 2009. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy of love and thirst for life will continue to live on and touch his family and friends through the life of his beautiful daughter, Jalyn Patricia Ann Adams.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mrs. Louise H. Owens, Baltimore, MD; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Leawood KS; St. James Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lyons, TX; Mr. Harold H. Horn, Fullerton, CA; J.P. & W.K. Mohler, Kansas City, MO; Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston-Salem, NC; Mr. Harold R. & Mrs. Evelyn N. Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. James & Mrs. Dorothy Daugherty, Silver Spring, MD; Dr. Robert L. Hill, Kansas City, MO; Dr. Cornell & Mrs. Johnetta Thomas, Hawkins, TX; Dr. Wayne H. & Mrs. Virginia Bell, Lexington, KY; Mr. Archie & Mrs. Kathryn Thompson, Baltimore, MD; Ms. Ellen Crowder, Alexandria, VA; Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS.; Mr. George Coates, Kansas City, MO.

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# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

October—December '09

Volume 18, Issue 4

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)



UCP Pastor Joan & Oscar Haynes  
The Biltmore Estate

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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### Capital Area Disciples are Celebrating the Lord and Having Fun through Travel Ministry

by Arthur Banks

Disciples and friends from Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, and beyond have been experiencing some of the many ways Christians are expressing their love of the Lord. The Travel Ministry is a component of the Congregational Life Ministry of the United Christian Parish of Reston, VA. Members of all churches are invited to join in future travels.

In recent trips, travelers have learned more about the faith and lives of the Amish and Mennonites in **Lancaster, PA**. While there, they also experienced wonderful productions of loved Bible stories. These included "**Daniel and the Lions' Den**" at the famous Millennium Theater, and "**Abraham & Sarah, A Journey of Love**" at the Living Waters Theater.

During Advent last year they experienced much of the beauty and spirituality reflected in the architecture and people of **Asheville, NC**. Among the many sites included was a guided tour of the **historic City of Asheville**, the magnificent **Basilica of St. Lawrence**, the National Park Service's famous **Folk Art Center**, the **Billy Graham Center at the Cove**, and the famous **Biltmore Estate**. Just last



**Biltmore Estate at Christmas Time**

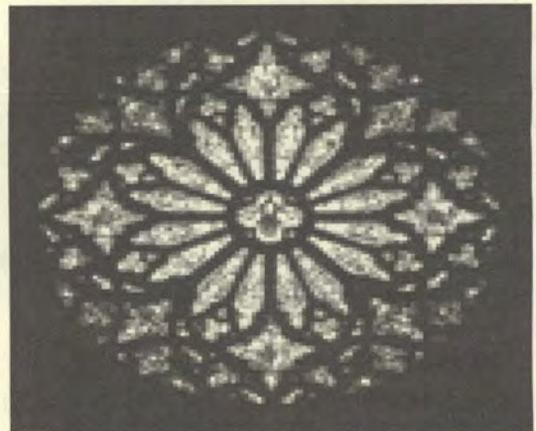
month, travelers embarked on a four-day trip to **New York City, "The Big Apple."** They were treated to professionally guided tours of sites and events throughout Manhattan where they also enjoyed shopping, dinners, and dinner shows. Educational highlights included a pre-arranged guided tour of the **Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine** "A House of Prayer for All People," experiencing Sunday morning worship at the beautiful and famous **Riverside Church** followed by an instructional tour, and a visit to **St. Patrick's Cathedral**.

If you would like to be added to the contact list for future ministry travels, you may contact Jean Banks at [jean-banks@comcast.net](mailto:jean-banks@comcast.net) or 703.629.8581.

*Arthur Banks is a member of United Christian Parish, Reston, VA.*



**St. John Cathedral**



**Stained Glass Interior Window of the St. John Cathedral**



**Billy Graham Memorial Chapel**

Letter from the Board Chair

Oldtimers' Grapevine

December 2009

Joy to the World!!



Beloved Grapevine Readers,

Recently I visited with my daughter Jennifer and grandson Zion via Skype. Although an in-person visit with family is the ideal, Skype is the next best thing, that not only enables you to talk with loved ones but also to SEE them. Seeing loved ones is particularly significant with seven-month-old Zion, who doesn't talk, yet is quite active. I cannot describe the joy I feel to be distant from Zion, yet able to follow his actions and to see his growth from one visit to the next.

This joy I feel as a doting grandmother is also the joy we as Christians feel as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus's birth, one more time, during this Christmas season. One of my favorite hymns is "Joy to the World, The Lord Is Come". In this short phrase, we have the essence of why God sent Jesus to earth – to be our Lord and Savior, for which we should experience great joy. This important message of salvation and joy is not only for Christians – but for all in the world who would hear and believe.

As a beloved supporter of the Grapevine, I would wish for you the many blessings of Christmas. May the "Joy of the Lord" permeate everything you do and say as you prepare for Christ's arrival. May the hustle and bustle of the season be merely background noise as you focus on activities that convey the real meaning of Christmas -- for example, giving to those who are in need, praying for peace, and sharing the good news of Jesus's birth with others through caroling (a forgotten ritual of the season). My family has found a lot of meaning as well from attending concerts and plays that remind us that Jesus is the reason for the season.

This season is an excellent time to express thanks for our many blessings. I sincerely want all of you to know how blessed we feel to have you as a part of the Grapevine family. On behalf of the staff and board, we would like to thank you for your gifts, letters, and every expression of support that you have extended to us. As you think of worthy causes to support, please consider a year-end gift to the Grapevine. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with you and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

## **P K (Preacher's Kid) Sweetheart Named Class of 1975 Endowed Professor**

by Oscar Haynes

Professor and Associate Dean Mary Jo Wiggins, daughter of Rev. Dr. Ernest J. & Dr. Janice Newborn, of Berkeley, CA, has been awarded the Class of 1975 Endowed Professorship in ceremonies at the Fall Convocation of the Faculty and Administration of the University of San Diego, San Diego, CA.

The Endowed Professorship, established by the Class of 1975 as its 25-year reunion gift to the Law School, recognizes meritorious teaching, leadership, and academic accomplishments of a professor in the School of Law.

Professor Wiggins has been a member of the University of San Diego law faculty for 19 years, having entered the legal academy after several years in a corporate legal practice in Indianapolis, IN. Her scholarship focuses on property, bankruptcy policy and theory, race and law, and the nature of legal reform. Besides authoring numerous articles and book chapters on these topics, she provides expert commentary to both academic and community audiences.

This charming young professor is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and is a contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy*, the leading scholarly treatise in the field of bankruptcy. She has a heavy speaking schedule for professional audiences and has received numerous professional honors. In 1998, she was selected to the United States Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. This committee drafts amendments and proposes federal rules of procedure for public comment and submission to the U.S. Congress.

Mary Jo, as affectionately addressed by family and friends, expressed to her parents at age nine her de-

sire to be a law professor. This was when Rev. Newborn was concluding his ministry with First Congregational Church of Christ in Washington, DC. Her parents believe it is due to the genes of her grandfather and two uncles, all practicing attorneys, that she chose this vocation from childhood. "Although she was respectful of her parents, she delighted in 'winning' arguments with her father, mother and older brother, Ernest Newborn II, also an attorney," declared her father.

History was playing an important role in the life of the country and the Newborn family at this time. On the day Rev. Newborn was receiving his Masters Degree from the Howard University Divinity School in May, 1954, the U. S. Supreme Court decided *Brown v. Board of Education*, declaring illegal the "separate but equal" doctrine in public education. Two years later Mary Jo became the newest member of the Newborn family. She was born in Canton, OH, where her dad was serving a Disciples congregation. "Her childhood as the daughter of a clergyman served her well in adjusting easily to changing locations, environments and circumstances," he added.



**Mrs Wiggins at age 3 with her mother.**

Mrs. Wiggins received her undergraduate degree with highest departmental honors from Smith College in Northampton, MA. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School where she was notes editor of the *Michigan Law Review*.

## Wiggins cont'd

In 1997-98, she was honored by the University of San Diego as a Herzog Endowed Scholar for meritorious teaching and scholarly productivity as a member of the law faculty. In 1996, she was awarded the Asa S. Herzog Award as one of the most promising junior scholars in the field of bankruptcy and commercial law. She was recently named one of "San Diego's Top Attorneys" in a peer-nominated survey. The San Diego Chapter of the League of Women Voters named her a "Woman of Vision in Law."

Professor Wiggins has served as chair of the American Association of Law Schools' Section on Debtor's and Creditor's Rights, as reporter for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council's Committee for review of Local Bankruptcy Rules of Procedure, as chair of the California State Bar Insolvency Law Committee's Bankruptcy Rules Review Project, as a member of the Advisory Board of the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review, and as a consultant for two recent RAND Corporation Research Studies on the consumer bankruptcy system.

The passion of Professor Wiggins is expressed in her own words: "Our law school is a wonderful place to teach and to pursue scholarship. Our students are talented, hard-working and collegial. It is a real thrill to see our students use what they learn here to pursue their interests and ambitions after graduation. My faculty colleagues are intellectually curious, highly productive and firmly committed to academic values. To top it all off, we are located in one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in the country."

Rev. and Mrs. Newborn shared with the Old-timers' Grapevine that "Mary Jo grew up to be a devoted Christian, churchwoman, wife, mother and law professor. Although she has many



**Professor Wiggins holding her plaque.**

achievements, she struggles with the temptation of sibling rivalry with her older brother." Professor Wiggins is married to Donald Wiggins, Manager of Residential Customer Programs at San Diego Gas and Electric Company. They are the proud parents of Nathan, age 12, and Meredith, age



## OSCAR'S NOTES

*From the Desk of the  
Contributing Editor*



Dear God's beloved, as we put this issue of the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter to bed, this ends eighty years of continuous publication. Thanks for your support of this valuable ministry. Let me remind you that it was the visionary leader Rev. Dr. William K. Fox who started this publication and I am honored that he chose me to be his successor. Now we have the very capable Joyce Knox, dedicated church leader and retired government publications editor, keeping this outstanding service available to readers across the country. We thank God that during this financial crisis in the world, you continue to support this ministry.

As we reach the end of this calendar year, we are also reminded to make our church financial pledges for 2010. This reminds me of the early 1970s, when I joined the Division of Homeland Ministries Board (now Home Missions), of the striking difference in financial conditions then and now in the church and country. The church and society were financially healthier then than now. Today tithing is even more important so the church can continue programs for persons suffering from this crisis.

The scriptures tell us tithing is giving 10% of our income to God. Action on the part of two staffers of Home Missions in responding to tithing is going beyond the 10%, in the opinion of this layman. According to a recent story by Wanda Bryant Wills of Disciples News Service, Adonna Bowman and Bonnie Gearlds are giving up their employment and returning to work as volunteers. With the current unemployment figure exceeding 10.2%, this is an outstanding sacrificial gift to God's ministry. Rev. Ron Degges, DHM President, said the division will be facing a budget deficit of \$185,000 unless some strategic action is taken. He was thankful for their action but said this would not erase the full amount but will help in balancing the budget. Adonna Bowman is Executive Director of the Office of Disciples Women, and Bonnie Gearlds is Bowman's administrative assistant. Let it be the prayer of all that these

two staffers are blessed in all that they seek in living out a commendable legacy in their service to God and the church. May their mission bring financial success to the balancing of not only the DHM budget but other units of God's Church.

It is exciting to share these results as well: Bishop and Lady T. Garrott Benjamin Jr., avid tithers and advocates of tithing, have made a personal gift of a \$10,000 scholarship for single mothers to Martin University, Indiana's only black four-year accredited university. The gift was received by Dr. Algenia Freeman, President. In presenting the gift Dr. Benjamin declared "We live to give." This remarkable couple celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN, in October 2009.

As we plan our 2009 Christmas, I want us to make the Christmas (CHRISTmas) tree the center of our Christmas celebration and festivities. Glittering with lights and ornaments, it is a part of the beauty and meaning of Christmas. We will make Christ the center of Christmas. There are several legends about the Christmas tree.

The first use of the Christmas tree was in the medieval German Paradise Plays, held outdoors and portraying the creation of humankind. The Tree of Life was a fir tree decorated with apples. Later other ornaments were hung upon them, such as paper flowers and gilded nuts. In England, branches or whole trees were forced into bloom indoors for Christmas. From these beginnings, the use of a tree at Christmas was established.

Martin Luther was perhaps the first to use a lighted tree. The story is told that on one Christmas Eve, Martin Luther wandered outdoors and became enraptured with the beauty of the starry sky. Wishing to share with his wife and children the enchantment he had felt, he cut from the forest an



## Oscar's Notes cont'd

evergreen glistening with snow, and took it home. He placed upon it candles to represent the glorious heavens he had seen. The use of a candle-lighted tree spread to all Europe, then America came to regard it as the central ornament of Christmas.

**As we live into this season of Advent, let us remember:**

**Jesus is Better than Santa**

**Santa lives at the North Pole.**

**JESUS is everywhere.**

**Santa rides in a sleigh**

**JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.**

**Santa comes but once a year**

**JESUS is an ever-present help.**

**Santa fills your stockings with goodies**

**JESUS supplies all your needs.**

**You have to stand in line to see Santa**

**JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.**

**Santa lets you sit on his lap**

**JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

**While Santa puts gifts under your tree,**

**JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.**

**It's obvious there is really no comparison.**

**We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.**

**We need to put Christ back in Christmas.**

**Jesus is still the reason for the season.**

**May the Lord bless and watch over you and your loved ones this Christmas 2009!**

**The Haynes Family wishes all OTG readers a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Healthy and Happy New Year.**

THANKS JUDE!!

The Board and staff of OTG would like to express great appreciation to our friend and colleague Jude Martin, who made many valuable contributions to the format and operating procedures of the newsletter while serving as Production Manager and Circulation Manager in 2008-09.

## READER'S COMMENTS

To Whom It May Concern:

I have a church member who has shared the *Oldtimers' Grapevine* with me and it has been very informative.

Thank you for putting me on your mailing list.

Leola P. Norman,,

Little Rock, AR

Oscar,

Congratulations to you on the inspiring article in the last "Grapevine". You are indeed insightful, courageous and inspiring. President Obama needs people like you. Many thanks for your friendship and the friendship to Judy Bowles.

Bill & Dorothy Bowles,

Aurora, CO

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *A preface was omitted from May Reed's poem in the July-September issue, We'll Give Them a Rose Garden. The poem commemorates the three crash sites of September 11, 2001.*

## The Wooden Bowl

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor". So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed their dinners together.

Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when you get old." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

*Contributed by Betty Jo Brown - Author Unknown*

## THE POET'S CORNER

### Time Is Fleeing: Only Nature Seeing

Red, yellow, amber leaves  
falling from the spanning trees twill soon be bare.  
Brisk, breezy winds, tossing nature about  
with teeming care.  
Now comes the changing season,  
plie'd with pelting rain and wind.  
Oh, but the world is gripped with ignorance,  
idiocy, arrogance, hate and sin.  
And the leaves keep placidly falling, drifting  
serenely free.  
Oh why can't people too  
like this be – why can't they see?  
Many families do now look forward  
to a festive Thanksgiving  
with joy-filled voices and hearts of thanksliving;  
while both the wheat and the tare inhabit the land.  
Oh, but too much hate and chaos fill mind and hand.  
Why won't we embrace harmony, unction?  
Why won't we abide together – peacefully function?  
The leaves grow side by side.  
They never murmur or fuss;  
They provide shade and beauty for all of us.  
Time is fleeing,  
Oh why can't we see?  
Why can't we more like nature be?

May Reed

Written Sat., Nov. 7, 2009

## At Risk of Falling Into Poverty

by Rev. Dr. Rosetta Robinson



As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. Luke 21:1-2. How many of our seasoned saints, diaper disciples, grandparents of diaper disciples, are in the same situation as the widow in Luke 21? How many give their gifts to the work of the church, week after week, not “out of their wealth,” but out of their poverty?

When I began my job in 1995 as a community minister working for a nonprofit in Montgomery County, Maryland, my work primarily focused on helping single, low-income women with children. Now it covers the low-income and working poor from all walks of life. That’s because the face of poverty in this wealthy suburb of Washington, DC has changed.

Today, the poor and low-income are represented among all races and regions of the nation. An estimated ten percent of the county’s population of over 900,000 residents cannot afford to live in its expensive environment. Who are they? They live in Montgomery County and in other jurisdictions around the country as citizens and as undocumented residents. They are heads of households, single, married, homeowners, at risk of becoming homeless, employed, unemployed, young and old. Census data shows that five percent of the County’s poor households are elderly residents, 65 and over. Since I began serving on an Advisory

Committee to the County Executive, addressing senior issues, I have become increasingly sensitive to the elderly poor among us. The county is committed to being a senior-friendly community, helping seniors age in place with dignity. Last year, the AARP Foundation held a symposium on poverty and aging in America and released a chart book profiling the nation’s older population. It indicates that the overall poverty rate for older Americans ranges from nine to eleven percent. It’s higher for Hispanics (19.4%) and African Americans (22.7%). Here are a few interesting highlights: Older women are more at risk of poverty. They are also less likely to be employed. Remaining in the workforce helps keep people (elders too) out of poverty. Hispanics and African Americans over 65 are more likely than whites to be in the workforce.

Social Security has helped to keep the elderly out of poverty. The elderly poor are less likely to receive income from a retirement, a pension, or 401(k) plan. Older whites are more likely to have these benefits. The elderly poor depend on public benefits to live, such as: Medicaid, SSI, public housing, and food stamps.

Elderly poor homeowners face significant challenges maintaining their homes. The median net worth of poor families aged 50 and above is less than \$10,000. It is much lower (1/5 of the white net worth) for similarly aged 50+ African American and Hispanic residents living in poverty. We are used to appeals calling on the faithful to donate or demonstrate on behalf of children or another popular cause. We don’t hear as many pleas rallying the troops to take steps to protect our elders now. We can expand our 13<sup>th</sup> check offering to aid retired ministers and missionaries. We can advocate for jobs, benefits, health insur

cont’d on top of pg 10

## Poverty cont'd

ance, and affordable housing for an overlooked, yet growing, needy segment of the population. As we live out our call to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, we can advocate for a better quality of life for all of God's people as they age through all stages of the life cycle from birth to death. Indeed, I believe our financially vulnerable elders fall in the category of the least of these spoken of in Matthew 25:31-46. God is counting on us to be co-laborers with the Lord, in helping to lift the poor and the least out of poverty with alms, compassion, and acts of justice. For female-headed households, their net worth is only about 1/10 of that of poor households headed by white males over the age of 50. Elderly poor households have fewer financial assets, savings, money market accounts, mutual funds, or adequate life insurance to support expenses.

## DISCIPLES NEWS ROUND-UP

**FORT WORTH, TX** – The pastor, Rev. Reuben Thompson, and congregation of Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fort Worth, TX celebrated their centennial anniversary this year. The year-long celebration included an event each month, including the Founders Day Service, Neighborhood Family Night, Youth Fest, Members' Memorial, Outdoor Worship, Gospel Reunion Jam Fest, fellowship with other local congregations, and a spirit-filled revival. One of the most memorable moments was the commemorative walk from our old building location to its current location at 1800 E. Vickery. Community, family and friends walked proudly through the neighborhood and held our banners high singing and praising God. The culminating event took place on Sunday, October 11, 2009 with a reception honoring past pastors and leaders of the church. Also, a street was re-named after Rev. Dr. Paul A. Sims, who was a great community leader and pastor of the church.

## Disciples News cont'd

The final worship service included words from Dr. D. Newell Williams, President of Brite Divinity School.

**CLEVELAND, OH** – On September 13, 2009 Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards received the "2009 Faithful Servant Award". The award was presented to him by Dr. Glenn T. Carson, President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. This award recognizes individuals who have given exceptional service to the total church. Rev. Dr. Edwards is the Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio. He is a graduate of Hiram College, Christian Theological Seminary, McCormick Theological Seminary, and the University of Memphis. In addition to having served as Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, he served in the Office of the General Minister and President, the Department of Christian Education, the Disciples Center, and the Department of Homeland Ministries.

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** - Eliza H. Cave and Ann Picket-Parker received awards during the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the National Convocation Banquet. The awards were given in honor of their contributions in the area of Christian Education in the African American community.

Eliza H. Cave is a member of First Christian Church in Aiken, SC, a member of the Convocation's Board of Directors, and a past president of the National Convocation's Christian Women's Fellowship. Ann Pickett-Parker is the co-pastor of New Generation Christian Fellowship in Moss Point, MS and is the vice president of the International Disciples Women's Ministry.

**CLEVELAND, OH** – On Sunday, October 25, 2009 a celebration was held to honor Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan for his 25 years in ministry. The members of Fifth Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) paid tribute to recognize the numerous contributions he has made to their home church and to the total church.

QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY

# QA Basics

**Who:** All Disciples women and their mothers, daughters, and friends

**What:** Quadrennial Assembly for Women—a gathering of women of faith

**Where:** Koury Convention Center and Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel Greensboro, North Carolina



**When:** June 23-27, 2010

**Registration:** \$375 (the same as for the Mix in '06); opens at General Assembly

**Meal Options:** \$75 Meal Package includes 6 plated meals (3 lunches/3 dinners)  
Food Court at the next door mall  
Restaurants at the hotel/convention center

**Housing:** \$122+tax per room

**Parking:** Free at the hotel

**Transportation from Airport:** \$20 round trip +gratuity

Check out [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org) for more information

## The Oldtimers' HEALTHVINE

### HEALTHVINE

#### H1N1 Facts and Myths

Myth: The H1N1 vaccine is untested and was rushed to market.

Fact: The H1N1 vaccine was tested in the same manner, with the same criteria and the same safety precautions, and was manufactured in the same facilities as the seasonal flu vaccine.

Myth: The H1N1 virus changes so the vaccine might not be effective.

Fact: As opposed to the seasonal flu, the genetic makeup of the circulating H1N1 virus has not significantly changed. As such, the strain of vaccine currently produced should be an excellent match, and therefore, likely highly effective.

Myth: The pharmaceutical companies and/or the government have delayed the distribution of the vaccine.

Fact: This year, vaccination production has doubled because of the production of the H1N1 vaccine. Logistically, manufacturers could produce all 100 million-plus seasonal flu vaccines and 40 million-plus H1N1 vaccines and store them in warehouses until all doses are prepared. Or they could begin disseminating vaccine gradually as it becomes available. It arguably would be unethical to have vaccine available and not distribute. However, this has led to sporadic distribution during October and November.

Myth: The H1N1 vaccine might not be safe for pregnant women.

Fact: Getting influenza is not safe for pregnant women. The risk of getting seriously ill for pregnant women is six times that of non-pregnant women because of a greater difficulty in taking deeper breaths and an inhibited immune system.

Myth: Reports show those vaccinated with the seasonal flu vaccine have a greater likelihood of acquiring the H1N1 virus.

Fact: One unpublished report from Canada asserted the above statement. In addition to the fact that there is no technical or scientific rationale that the seasonal flu vaccine could make you vulnerable to H1N1 flu, all other literature and science published from multiple areas (United States, Europe, Australia) have never supported this.

All of the above information was taken directly from the CDC.gov website.

By the way, did I get my H1N1 shot? Yes—and so did my family members.

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

## OVERHEARD

### God is Listening

In line at the Pearly Gates, a New York taxi driver met St. Peter, who gave him a golden robe, a golden staff, and a golden pair of slippers.

"Now go in peace!"

A Disciples of Christ minister stepped up next. St. Peter gave him a brown cotton robe, a wooden staff, and a pair of sandals.

The minister screamed, "What?! You gave him everything in gold, and you are giving me old brown wood."

"Yes, that's right! When you preached, the people slept. When he drove, the people prayed."

*Contributed by Betty Jo Brown*

## Letter from Jesus about Christmas

One of our editors received this message (author unknown), which has been circulating on the Web this year --

*It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season.*

*How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.*

*Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.*

*Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.*

*If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:*

**1.** *Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.*

**2.** *Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.*

**3.** *Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up... It will be nice hearing from you again.*

**4.** *Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with*

*them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.*

**5.** *Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.*

**6.** *Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.*

**7.** *Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families*

**8.** *If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary-- especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.*

**9.** *Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.*

**10.** *Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.*

*Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember :*

**I LOVE YOU,**

Jesus

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

CLEVELAND, OH -- Viola Peggie Wagner was born to Cosby Marion and Viola Douglas Wagner on June 22, 1927, in Concord, NC. Viola accepted the Lord Jesus Christ at an early age and became active in the music ministry at First Christian (Disciples of Christ). After graduating from Logan High School, she attended Barber-Scotia college before moving to New York to care for her ailing mother. Viola later moved to Washington, DC, where she joined Twelfth Street Christian Church and was a member of the Voices of Twelfth Street and various committees. Here she met and married James E. Hedgeman, and began the selfless task of nurturing their family of four children with a stress on education and service. She also cared for her brother Fred and sister Thelma until the end of their lives. When Peggie transferred her membership to Michigan Park Christian Church, she found much joy in worshipping and serving the Lord as a Deaconess, President of the Pastor's Aide Ministry, and in the Women's Choir.

Peggie worked in the hotel industry and in sales. At the Department of Family Services of Prince George's County, MD, she was a site manager for the Department of Aging, and was recognized for her faithful and honorable service upon her retirement in 1997.

As her health began to decline, she moved to Cleveland, OH with her daughter Robin, and joined Bethany Christian Church, where she was lovingly embraced as Mother Hedgeman by countless daughters, sons, grandchildren, sisters, and brothers. On October 15, 2009, she moved to her heavenly abode.

Viola leaves to mourn her devoted children Reginald (Debra) and Ronald (Marie) of Washington, DC, Regina (Larry) of Brunswick, GA, and Robin of Cleveland, OH; nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Arthur and Robert (Roberta) Wagner of Baltimore, MD, and her sister Vascelia Wright of Brooklyn, NY.

She will be remembered most of all for her love of the Lord, her intuitiveness, her sense of humor, her serious-minded work ethic, her sassiness, and her firm hand.

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Deacon Ann Maddox, the daughter of the late Harvey and Estella Jumper, was born on April 5, 1912 in Muskogee, OK. She departed this life on Wednesday, October 1, 2009.

Ann accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age, when she joined Second Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Muskogee. In 1950, she joined Fellowship Church. This is the church that she, her sister Mary Poston, and her cousin Calla Joseph founded.

At Fellowship Christian Church she was an ordained Deacon, sang in the Sanctuary Choir, and served on the Nurse's Guild.



Ann attended Dunbar School and graduated from the Manual Training High School in Muskogee. Later she moved to Philadelphia and graduated from Jefferson School of Nursing. She was employed as a Licensed Practical Nurse at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic medicine until her retirement in 1972.

Deacon Maddox is survived by a nephew, Richard Poston, his wife Lisa, and a host of cousins and friends.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Mr. Harvey & Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary H. Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mrs. Betty Jo Brown, Houston, TX; Rev. David & Mrs. Dale R. Shreeves, Martinsburg, WV; Dr. Sere & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr., Leawood, KS; Ms. Mary M. Watson, Kansas City, MO; Rev. Marvin E. Smith, Gainesville, FL; Rev. William & Mrs. Dorothy Bowles, Aurora, CO; Mrs. Ruth D. Heimer, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. William & Mrs. Pat Nottingham, Highlands Ranch, CO; Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster, Georgetown, TX; Hasson Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rogersville, TN; Rev. Harold R. Johnson, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Leola Pickens Norman, Little Rock, AR; Mrs. Jackie Compton Bunch, Columbus, OH; Rev. Dr. Margaret N. Roberts, Kansas City, MO; Ms. Mavis Kisner, Reston, VA.

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*Staff wishes everyone*

*A Very Merry Christmas and*

*A Happy Kwanzaa*

