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The Oldtimers' Grapevine

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1992

The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 2 (January - December 1992)

William K. Fox Sr

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THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. 11 No. 1

January - February, 1992

Raymore, Missouri

OLDTIMERS ARE FEATURED AS "LIGHT OF WORLD" CELEBRATES ITS 125th. ANNIVERSARY

Indianapolis, IN- The 3,000 plus member Light of the World Christian Church launched a year-long observance of their 125th. anniversary November 24, 1991. A reception at the historic Walker Building was highlighted with a drama which lifted up the anniversary theme: "Celebrating Our Past and Liberating Our Future." Pictured below are some of the senior stars that shine in "The Light." Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, who has been senior pastor since 1969, points to the television outreach ministry as the congregation's most effective area-wide witness. Ninety-five percent of its support comes from the membership. According to The Indianapolis News reporter Rebecca Bibbs who did a feature story research on Light of the World, "Senior citizens... are becoming a priority for the church whose members hope ... to establish a family life complex that would include housing for elderly members."



Rich Miller/The Indianapolis News

ABOVE ARE ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS- Their accumulative memberships at Second (Light of the World Christian) Church total 278 years. Left to right, Emmett Dickson, member since 1931; Elizabeth Enix, 1924; Johnnie Blue, 1964; Mary C. Farmer, 1929; and Charlseda Wilcox, 1929.

In the New Year "May you be poor in misfortune and rich in blessings..."

-from THE BEST OF IRISH WIT AND WISDOM by JOHN McCARTHY-

AND MORE DONORS! THANKS!

*Jenean Fulton, Indianapolis, IN;
 Anita Hairston, Tulsa, OK; E.
 Elbart/Margaret Starn, Columbia,
 MO; Edwin M. Hurdle, Dallas, TX;
 Zelle Peoples, Indianapolis, IN;
 Kathryn and Ozark Range, Sr.,
 Indianapolis, IN

**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
 FINANCES- JAN. 1 - DEC. 31, 1991
 INCOME-**

Extrashare (\$20 and over) - \$ 645.00
 Regular donor (\$5 up to #20) 880.00
 \$1,525.00

EXPENSES-

Paper, labels, etc. ---- 67.21
 Printing/duplication ----- 539.48
 Promotion ----- 88.18
 Stamps, par. post fees ---- 366.28
 State Tax (incorp. papers) -- 10.00
 \$1,071.15
 BALANCE ON HAND -- \$ 453.85

**THUS ENDS OUR FIRST YEAR-
 THANKS YOU! THANK YOU!**

LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

*Jenean Fulton, Indianapolis, IN- maintains a studio and continues to place "J. Fulton" creations of fine art photography on exhibition- an activity she pursued successfully with her late husband, John Fulton for many years. She recently was in a major holiday exhibition in Witchita, KS

*Anita Hairston, Tulsa, OK- during the recent Tulsa General Assembly of the Church, Anita sponsored an informal home reception for a small circle of friends. She reminded us of her deep roots in Disciples of Christ traditions. She is a niece of

THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

*Published independently six times
 a year through free-will donations-*

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 500 Mott Dr. - Apt. 102 B
 Raymore, MO 64083
 PHONE: (816-331-7323)*



Mississippi's heroic early pioneer church leader- Rosa Brown Bracy; a graduate of Southern Christian Institute of Edwards, MS and married a man who graduated from Piedmont Christian Institute- both Disciples of Christ mission schools. While practicing medicine in Tulsa, the late Dr. Hairston was a devout member of the Pine Street Church. In 1952 Anita Hairston became the first Black graduate of Tulsa University.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

When you receive this issue of Oldtimers', the editor and his dear wife will be "toughing it out" with our son, daughter-in-law and a host of grandchildren, friends, etc. on the West Coast. We are entering 1992 with the help of the good Lord!

What the Oldtimers Grapevine needs most from you is a word about some of your doings which can be shared with our network. What each of us is doing in their little way and in their little place, can bring inspiration and motivation to others on the journey.

What new discoveries did you make last year with flowers, or baking, or bible study, or grandparenting, etc.? The stage that most of us are in life does not require that we do or share something earth-shattering. We have each already done that by just surviving! How about sharing?

Share your copy of OLDTIMERS'. Recruit others to become readers!

**A BRIEF 1991 XMAS
LETTER ROUND-UP**

***JoAnne Kaglwada- Washington, D. C.-** dealing with playing computer games with the kids and expanding her work portfolio to "issues of diversity and multiculturalism, as well as religion, as they impact the field of philanthropy."

***Walter/Sue Cardwell- Indianapolis, IN-** growing up with a son's triplets- Sue working part-time at the seminary and counseling center; a "distinguished award" to Sue by the A. A. of Pastoral Counselors and an honorary doctorate to Walter from Christian Theological Seminary.

***Rex Blix- Clearwater, FL--** In spite of nagging wounds from arthritis, age and heart by-passes, experienced great year of "fun times, pleasant cruises to exotic far away places, holidays in Spain, parties with dancing girls, balloons and streamers."

***M/M. & W. E. Starn- Columbia, MO-** "Muggs" moved into the Health Care Center because of mobility problems; pacemaker implant for Bill Sept. 25 to correct heart beat irregularity; but both continue involvement in church, Lenoir happenings, University concerts and the Theater season.

***Harry & Frances Parsons-Raymore, MO-** Harry is singing his heart out in music groups at Raymore C. C. and Foxwood; Frances active as a CWF worship leader; Harry into ministers' group meetings; both attendants at Tulsa General Assembly, activities of their

children's families- All in spite of old arthritis and creeping age.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Here is my contribution for 1992. You are doing well in keeping us in touch with long-time friends. My best wishes to you.

-Gertude Dimke, Indianapolis, IN-

*The Oldtimers' Grapevine is a great publication. We are doing well in Texas... I promise to give you better support in the future. **-Edwin Hurdle, Dallas, TX-**

*We enjoy the "Grapevine." Enclosed is our gift toward 1992 support... Keep up the good work.

I was in attendance at the anniversary celebration for Pastor Hylton in St. Louis. **-Kathryn and Ozark Range, Sr.-**

**REID- URBAN CHURCH
PIONEER DIES**

Chicago, IL- Frank G. Reid, a native Jamaican, first (and to-date, only) Black Disciples of Christ graduate in divinity from Harvard University, died in retirement August 23, 1991. He was a tireless pioneer in urban church mission.

In 1962 the Chicago Disciples of Christ Union and the national church was about to give up on assisting Chicago's historic Jackson Boulevard Church survive in the inner city. Frank Reid, fresh out of Harvard Divinity School, answered the call to

(Continued on Page 4)

Note the finance report. Is your donation on its way? Thanks so much!

serve. For 27 years he anchored himself via a "tent-maker ministry" and successfully guided the membership in confronting overwhelming central city forces.

Today, Co-Pastor Louise Reid- Frank's wife- carries on in that same tradition with a live and viable congregation. Jackson Boulevard is one of less than ten African-American led Disciples congregations which is lodged in the inner city and committed to effective ministry within a public housing community. Widow Louise survives with members of Frank's family to mourn his loss.

THOMAS- EFFICIENT PENSION FUND STAFF SUCCUMBS

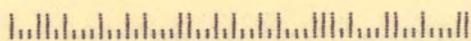
Indianapolis, IN- V. Rex Thomas, the quiet but effective Pension Fund staff on disability leave from the Pension Fund staff since June 1, 1991- died December 20, 1991. This culminated a long siege of illness. Rex had the special responsibility for mounting the annual campaign for ministerial relief and health care needs. Thomas' stabilizing presence in the church will be missed. He assisted many associated with the National Convention/Convocation on a one-on-one basis. Rex was a recent donor to the Oldtimers. His survivors include a wife, Patricia Birch-field; two daughters, nine grandchildren; two brothers and four sisters.

Entering 1992 with the Apostle Paul- "...this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." - Philipplians 3:13b-14- (NRSV)

**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
500 Mott Drive- Apt. 102B
Raymore, MO 64083**



May
Mrs. ~~Mary~~ F. Reed @
1101 Nineteenth Avenue, South
Nashville TN 37212



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Vol. II No. 2

March - April 1992

Raymore, Missouri

◆ Senior Member Glad!

A Rejoicing in Wildewood

Oklahoma City, OK- Cavannah Clark- retired school teacher and veteran lay leader in the Wildewood Christian Church and regional and general church work-enthusiastically reports that her congregation is engaged in a pioneering mission venture. It has just completed a unique plan to purchase the historic University Place Christian Church facilities of Oklahoma City and start another church.

The new congregation is viewed having high potential for becoming multiracial. It is located in a sector where there is a large Asian population. Under the leadership of veteran William W. Simms- the pastor of Wildewood Church- the nucleus for worship at University Place was formed from persons attending the 9 a.m. service at Wildewood. Simms has provided interim preaching.

Even without intentional promotion, the 9 a. m. worship service at University Place has had unusual success since it was launched the last



God's Victory

Sunday in November 1992. A Spring evangelistic campaign will mark the official campaign to establish the congregation.

Facilities purchased include a senior citizen program operating just across the street from the church. The purchase price of \$225,000 was secured through the Board of Church Extension. Wildewood's responsibility for payment is shared equally with the trustees of the old University Place congregation.

Senior member Cavannah Clark has seen Wildewood begin as an off-shoot of Sixth Street Christian Church and grow marvelously to the point where it now has taken the initiative for the establishment of a multiracial congregation. She credits God and faithful Pastor Willie Simms.

◆ After Serving 32 Years-

Pastor Hylton Honored

St. Louis, MO- After 32 years of stellar service to the Centennial Christian Church congregation as senior pastor and effective participant in community and general church life, Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. will be honored by having the second senior citizen housing complex named Hylton Point Apartments.

Pastor Hylton comes from a leading Disciples of Christ household whose members have served as church leaders for several generations in the Piedmont Area. His formal preparation for the ministry was secured at Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA), Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis, IN) and Eden Seminary (St. Louis, MO). Under his guidance the The congregation has had many landmark successes in Christian mission.

The most recent was the receiving of a U. S. Department

*See Page Two
Project Honors Hylton*

Celebrations!

Occasions For Thanksgiving

Ruth Hobbs of Jackson, MS- lay leader in the region and the United Christian Church- reports that as a member of the Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth board she is on the development committee. The committee is seeking new funds to continue the extraordinary work. The organization provides services for the members of gangs and needy families in Jackson and Greenville, MS. The program is NBA related.

Spencer and Kitty Austin of Indianapolis, IN celebrated the tenth anniversary of their wedding the last week in February with a cruise to Panama and parts of the Carribean. They're active in Robin Run and Downy Ave. Christian Church.

Ozark Range, Sr- of Indianapolis, IN- director of Black Ministry for the Division of Homeland Ministries was in Los Angeles, CA last month to represent retiree H. B. Dotson of Vicksburg, MS when Alfred A. Dotson H. B.'s son was ordained to the Christian Ministry at Hollywood Christian Church. Alfred Dotson serves on the staff of Hollywood church.

Retired Minister Raymond E. Brown served as the lecturer "in residence" October 23-25, 1992, for an event called OUR HISTORY, HERITAGE AND FUTURE SEMINAR. It emphasized the contributions of African American Disciples of Christ to the Restoration Movement in general and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in particular.

The National Convocation Board of Trustees and selected appraisers were in attendance. A special staff task force of the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church led by Dr. William Edwards designed the program.



DR. BROWN lectures with NBA Social Service Director Pat Clark's church history display in background.

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Indianapolis, IN
West Coast - Cornelius and Alpha
Arnold, Enoch W. Henry
Los Angeles, CA

Project Honors

Hylton- from Page 1

of Development Capital advance Grant for \$4,236,400.00 to build a 72 one bed-room unit housing complex for lowly income elderly and persons with mobile-ity impairment.

The complex must be completed within the next eighteen months. It will be constructed at Belt and Maple Streets and be similar to the congregation's first project called Centennial Plaza Apartments located at Sarah and McPherson Streets.

◆ Breasting the Winds:

PRAY
FOR:

Esther Ehly of Columbus, MO who suffered a heart attack June 1 last year. Angioplasty removed the blockage in two arteries. She is making good recovery and taking exercises regularly. **Her husband- Paul-** fell July 21 and broke the fibula in his left leg above the ankle. He is recovering and has progressed out of a cast to crutches or a cane.

George Earle Owen of Maple-wood, N.J. who is residing with his daughter, Mary Devon O'Brien, following the death of his wife-Margaret January 29, and his convalescence from a severe case on the head and right eye. George is one of the first retired assistants to the first general minister and president (i. e. A. Dale Fiers) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

James C. Brooks of Cincinnati, OH- former pastor of congregations in Brooklyn, NY, Cincinnati and Springfield, OH continues to contend with a long seige of illness.

George Hart of Reidsville, NC- in a local infirmary

receiving treatment for alzheimer's disease. He is a former pastor of Mt. Olive Christian Church, East Martinsville, VA, president of the Piedmont Area Convention and holder of membership in several general church boards and committees- including the National Convocation and General Assembly.

Rosa Page Welch of Port Gibson, MS- legendary traveling missionary and singer- who for some time has wrestled with the physical strains and stresses of aging- was placed in a newly constructed local infirmary the latter part of January. She is receiving modern health care and the tender loving attention of many local friends and family members. Communications for her could be sent through her daughter- Mrs. Lennie Freeman , 3402 1/2 Giles Ave. Chicago, IL 60616.

Carnella Jamison Barnes of Los Angeles, CA- retired general church field director for women's work and president of the International CWF- hospitalized February 9 to combat effects of fatigue.

J. C. Fowler of Summerville, S. C.- retired pastor and state leader of African American Disciples of Christ- bedfast at home.

A daughter- Anna Hampton- also of Summerville- recovering from a second round of cancer surgery.

DONORS SINCE
LAST ISSUE!
THANKS MUCH!

Melba Hawkins, Hawkins, TX; Annette Jackson, Nashville, TN; Marilynne Hill; Effie L. Burford; Leroy/MarthaSykes; Ozark/Katheryn Range, Sr.; Spencer/KittyAustin, Indianapolis, IN; Herbert/Doris Kohl; MinelleNowland; John/Herwana Sayre; Gilford/ DeniseOlmsted; Chas/Christine, Holmes; Frances E. Chambers, Raymore, MO; W./M. Starn; Paul/Esther Ehly;Columbia, MO; Robert/Maisie Jordan (i.e. Omitted in 1992 report) Detroit, MI; John R/Lucile A. Compton, Cincinnati, OH; A. Dale/Betty Fiers, Palm Beach Shores, FL; Rubye L. Washington; Geo/Cly. Washington,Chicago, IL; Velma Warrick, Kansas City, MO;



KEEP THE FAITH

◆ Walking

The Perfect
Exercise

by Frances Chambers*

When I first increased my walking I was excited and enthusiastic. I read everything on the subject and even attended a national Walker's Rally. But as time passed my spirits began to lag. I began to search desperately for something to keep me interested. What occurred to me might seem strange to some. I consulted a Bible concordance and found 57 references to "walk, walking, walked." None answered my need.

Finally, it came to me that Luke 2:52 (the four ways that Jesus grew) could be fulfilled by walking. Wisdom is increased by giving time to think and plan as we walk since there is an increase of oxygen to the brain. Stature—that is the physical condition is improved. "Favor with man" or enriched social relations occur as greetings and ideas are exchanged with fellow walkers.

Surely "favor with God" is the greatest benefit. The out-of-doors enables us to appreciate the Divine gift of nature. We can meditate and even offer intercession for those we carry in our hearts. It is a time when we can give attentiveness to the

miraculous reality of God.

Recently, I have found further documentation of my commitment to walking. According to the Tuffs Research Center of Boston staving off the effects of aging may be as easy as adopting a regular "prescription" of walking. Walking was chosen because no specialized training is necessary, though one is urged to swing the arms and to remember that bending the elbow at a 90 degree angle puts less stress on the heart. No certain time is required, although early morning before breakfast seems best. It is non-competitive. You choose your own speed. Covering one mile in 20 minutes is considered a moderate pace.

I was particularly interested in learning what the Research Center discovered when they compared walking with the amount of calcium on bone mass. It was verified that both strengthened the skeleton but at two different spots: calcium boosted bone at the thighbone, and walking prevented bone loss at the spine. The best effect of walking, however, was the increase of oxygen efficiency to the brain. It also acted as a tranquilizer by altering stress related chemicals in the brain.

Drink at least 6 ounces of liquid (i. e. water, milk, fruit juice)



before walking so that you will not become dehydrated. Do this especially when the weather is hot.

Brisk walking burns more calories and brings the body into better alignment. But all speeds improve circulation. No special clothing is required except well-fitting shoes with rubber soles. Wool or synthetic socks are recommended because such materials serve as wicks to draw moisture away from the feet.

There is only one requirement—**BE CONSISTENT**. Walk at least three times a week, but five or six times is even better. Begin slowly and gradually increase the length of your walk. "No pain, no gain" is a myth. Adjust to a comfortable experience.

I would strongly recommend walking as the "perfect exercise" for all who are physically able.

***FRANCES CHAMBERS** lives in the Foxwood Springs Living Center. She is a retired Christian Education staff specialist who served Disciples congregations in metropolitan Kansas City many years.

◆ Meritorious Transitions

For Whom the Bells Toll:

Eward Winston Cabbell, Sr. of Indianapolis, IN - a World War II veteran stationed in the South Pacific- the first of four African Americans to pioneer racial inte-gration in the city fire stations, died January 22, 1993. Formerly of Second Christian Church, he was a founding member of Faith United Christian Church; ardent family man and diligent camper; and scoutmaster in the Flanner House Community Center program for many years.

His wife, Helen Francesca and four children- Anthony, Stephanie

and Mark- plus grandchildren and many distant kin, are left to mourn his loss. A son- Edward Winston, Jr., is dead.

Thomas W. Courts of Flint, MI- a loyal bi-vocational pastor in metropolitan ministries for nearly a half century, died in January 1993. He had been retired from the Vermont Christian Church where he served as pastor for 20+ years. He was a faithful "Timothy" of Dr. Robert L. Jordan, the retired founding pastor of Forest Avenue Christian Church in Detroit, MI. Pastor Courts had spent much of the past twenty years as caretaker for his sick wife- Roberta- who died in 1992.

Maisie Jordan of Detroit, MI died from heart failure February 6, 1993. Her memorial services under Renaissance Pastor John Harvey's leadership were held February 11 at United Congregational Church with the memorial dinner taking place at the Renaissance church.

She was a registered nurse and faithful wife of Rev. Robert L. Jordan. Dr. Jordan is a former president of the National Christian Missionary Convention, author of the book TWO RACES IN ONE FELLOWSHIP, (1944) pastor of United Christian Church for more than 40 years. Left to mourn her loss is her husband; sons- Robert Jr. and Kenneth; daughter- Emory; grandchildren, other kin and friends.

(Please tear here and mail.)



**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
GOOD FAITH FORM:**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City-Town: _____ State: _____

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF: \$8 _____ \$10 _____ \$15 _____ \$20 _____

MAKE CHECK OUT TO THE "OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE" and send to William K. Fox- Editor/Manger - 500 Mott Dr. - Apt. 102-B - Raymore, MO 64083

Transitions

J. Kenneth Powell of Robin Run, Indianapolis, IN- retired Disciples of Christ minister, former pastor of congregations in the Mid-West, died February 10, 1993 after lingering illness. He was an active supporter of the development program for the Disciples Divinity House on the campus of the University of Chicago. Gifts to that fund are encouraged as a memorial.

Ruth Kuntz- also of Robin Run- wife of the late Kenneth Kuntz, president of DHM- died in Detroit, MI February 12, 1993 following surgery for a malignant brain tumor. She had been staying temporarily in Detroit with a daughter during her illness.

But He Rose Again!

Easter says that you and I are called to bear a cross. The cross of servanthood under God requires total commitment. It will often lead to the horrors of Calvary. But when all is done there can be an Empty Tomb and eventual victory.

A man was going down the street one day in a great city. In one of the windows, as he passed by, he saw a gorgeous painting portraying the Crucifixion of Christ. Suddenly he became conscious of a little boy standing by in rapt attention. The man would not leave the window. Touching the little boy on the shoulder, the man said: "Sonny, what does it mean?"

"Dontcha know? The boy answered in amazement! "That man is Jesus. And them others is Roman soldiers. And the woman what's crying is his mother; and they killed him!"

The man was fixed against the window by the impact of the scene. At last he turned away, and walked sadly down the street. In a few moments he heard the pattering foot steps of the lad who had been viewing the fatal scene with him. "Say, Mister," cried the little boy breathlessly, "I forgot to tell you-- but He rose again!"

**William K. Fox, Sr.-
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Raymore, Missouri

FOXWOOD'S TOM JOHNS SUCCEEDED BY J. FRAZIER

Raymore, MO- The size and impact of an institution is usually an extension of the leader's vision. This is true at the NBA related Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center of Raymore where January 1, 1992 Thomas Johns was succeeded by James Frazier as the executive vice-president of this 700 member senior citizen community. Frazier has headed Foxwood's independent and health services units with administrative skill and creative effectiveness. Ever since Foxwood's conception in 1975, Johns has provided the administrative initiative and vision which has enabled the facility to grow into a complex providing

Springs, CO and Patriot Heights, San Antonio, TX.



Thomas H. Johns

four levels of living- independent (apartments and homes), residential care, nursing, and alzheimers. An on-site health clinic provides comprehensive care. Foxwood is truly a trail-blazer.

Tom- a few years from retirement- has moved on as the regional operations director for the central office of the National Benevolent Association to render specialized assistance for the newly acquired NBA related institutions in Colorado



LETTERS OF CELEBRATION

* I join you in honoring the memory of Frank Reid and Rex Thomas- both dedicated ministers and great spirits. Each carried out unique ministries which enriched all of us. Good and faithful servants!!!

-Donald Legg, St. Louis, MO-

* The OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE came into today's mail and I read the entire paper before I stopped. Keep it coming...

I am beginning my 13th. year teaching the Bible class with the senior citizens and we are enjoying it. Each Wednesday we gather at 10:30 a. m. for study. I am sure because of our study our faith has grown. Keep us in touch with each other by way of the GRAPEVINE.

***Lorenzo J. Evans, Indianapolis, IN**

LENT = "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves"

LETTERS OF CELEBRATION

from Page 1

* My life here in Columbia goes on about the same as when I last wrote you. This year I'm treasurer of the CWF at Broadway Christian Church and a member of the church's department of Christian concerns. At Lenoir where I live I'm corresponding secretary of the Lenoir Community Meeting and work on several committees that keep life interesting here.

Just for fun I have joined a ceramics group- something I hadn't done before. It's a good idea to try something new once in awhile.

-Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO-

* I am retired! It's great to be able to take off or to take a nap when I please.

I will still be returning to MB (Missions Building) to help, i.e., general board docket, Year Book and do art work...

One thing I do is the monthly newsletter for my church. I did ride my bike a lot during the warm months.

We had 6 grandchildren with us at Thanksgiving... **Thelma Pyatt,**
-Indianapolis, IN-

NOTE: Thelma was the **OLDTIMERS'** editor's mainstay and helpful friend when he was employed by the general church and responsible for National Convocation materials. We would not have been able to do many creative things with our newsletter- **UP-DATE ON THE**

BLACK CHURCH- without the assistance of dear Thelma. But Thelma, are you really retired?!

*I continue to volunteer work at Alain Locke Elementary School in Philadelphia, Pa. I have continued since 1983 to help children who have difficulty in mathematics.

The work of the church is a part of my continued support. I am actively engaged in activities with the Tabernacle United Church of Christ.
Ruth R. Patterson, Philadelphia, PA-

NOTE: Prior to the origin of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Ms (Ratten) Patterson served a brief period on the general field staff serving CWF groups in congregations related primarily to the National Christian Missionary Convention.

*My hat's off to Bill Fox, long time friend, neighbor and colleague for helping us all keep in touch through the "Young Timer's Grapevine." Now that I've passed that 73rd. birthday, I have my own pet name for this newsletter... Nancy and I still live at 5325 Ohmer Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219. I have the best of both worlds- I'm retired and my wife's still working! If you have an annual Christmas letter, put me on the mailing list so I can keep up with you. We'll be glad to do the same for you.

-Russell F. Harrison, Indianapolis, IN-

NOTE: One of Russell's several ministries was to serve on the *central* (See Page 3)

MORE CELEBRATION-

from Page 2

administrative staff of homeland ministries. He had responsibilities for enabling leadership training concerns advocated by the National Convention/Convocation to occur. Further, he monitored the ways by which the original mission of institutions like Southern Christian Institute and Hazel Green Academy was conserved.

...
*Thank you so much for such (an) enlightening and informative newsletter. -Valeska H. Williams, St. Louis, MO-

NOTE: Ms. Williams is a retired public school teacher and part of the Hart Family which has been a major part of the loyal core of members in the life and work of Centennial Christian Church.

*Just a note to let you know how much I appreciated reading The Oldtimers' Grapevine. It is wonderful and very informative. I like it so much because I know I will be in it one day soon as I join the ranks of the "Oldtimers."

I am enclosing a check...to help you with it and also would like you to send us a few each issue so that we can spread them around. -T. Garrett Benjamin, (distinguished senior pastor- Light of the World C. C.) Indianapolis, IN-

*Kitty and I are in good health for the most part. We try to take an enriching trip of some kind each year. During 1991 we took two-- the first a tour of Alaska clear to the Artic Ocean at Prudhoe Bay, and second to the General Assembly in

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Midwest - Velra Dreense
Raymore, Mo
West Coast - Cornelius and
Alpha Arnold, Enoch W. Henry
Los Angles, Ca

Tulsa...followed by my 60th. Home Coming celebration at Phillips University. Meaningful experiences.

Our '92 trip is scheduled for a winter tour of Yellowstone Park and the Grand Tetons in February. We can hardly wait.

-Spencer & Kitty (Austin), Indianapolis, IN-

***February 22, 1992 the OLDTIMERS' editor and good wife, Reubena M. S. Fox,** returned to Indianapolis, IN to stand by once more in raptured expectancy as their daughter, Katherine (Tourner) was married to Dr. Gerald Cunningham, a veteran general church staff director of Indianapolis, IN. The ceremony and reception took place at Light of the World Church where Katherine is a member.

(See Page 4)

MORE CELEBRATION- from Page 3

A simple but serene ceremony was witnessed by many family members and friends. Gerald is on the administrative staff in the general church's newly structured division of homeland ministries. Katherine is the chief executive officer for the Indianapolis division of housing. Both have children from former marriages. Prayers and good wishes are coveted..



MORE DONORS! THANKS SO MUCH!

* Russell Harrison, Lorenzo Evans, Raymond E. Brown, Walter/Sue Cardwell, Elizabeth Enix, Spencer/Kitty Austin; T. Garrett Benjamin,, Indianapolis, IN; Zella M. Hunter, Tulsa, OK; Louise Mosely, Lester Rickman, Columbia, MO; Ellis/Louise Jordan, Chicago, IL; Naomi Sims, Fort Worth, TX; Emily Jackson (J. T, Chandler), Memphis, TN; Valeska Williams, Donald Legg, Norma R. E-Twitty, St. Louis; Robt/Maise Jordan, Detroit, MI; John/Lucile Compton, Cincinnati, OH; Ruth Patterson, Philadelphia, PA; Velva P Warrick (Lillian B. Dickason), Kansas City, MO; Della M. January, Springfield, OH; Harry/Frances Parsons, Raymore, MO

BIRTHDAY SUPRISE!

Tulsa, OK- When Orene Cole of Muskogee visited her daughter-Suetta, she had no conception of what she was walking into. A few long-time friends and family from Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles, CA, as

well as Tulsa and Muskogee, OK showered her with love and cards!

Her granddaughter had the house decorated beautifully and presented a scrap book and cards on a platter. Visitors present made testimonies which covered more than 50 years of acquaintance with Mrs. Cole.

The event was climaxed by Orene being ushered into the dinning area where daughter, Suetta, crowned her as "Queen for the Day." It was Orene Cole's 90th. birthday! (A grandson who came to Tulsa on business the next day, stopped by to continue the celebration. -Zella Hunter, Reporter-

NOTE: Orene Cole was a respected church leader in Little Rock, AR and in the life and work of the National Christian Missionary Convention.

LET US PRAY FOR:

***Former Moderator K. David Cole of Kansas City, MO** and pastor of Swope Park United Christian Church, who had a heart attack following Sunday morning worship January 19, 1991 and undergone successful by-pass heart surgery.



***Thomas W. Courts, Flint, MI-** retired

pastor-emeritus of the Vermont Christian Church who recently had heart surgery- His wife, Roberta who- after two years- remains in bed with a coma.

***Jean Woolfolk, Little Rock, AR-** has suffered another stroke. Write Oak Hill Manor, 8701 Riley Dr, Little Rock, AR 72205.

PROFILE OF A DISCIPLES MINISTERIAL DUO

Raymore, MO- Harry and Frances Parsons provide an interesting case study on the recruitment, molding and placement of a fruit-bearing traditional Disciples of Christ ministerial duo. They have been married for more than 61 years; have three children; eight grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren with two more expected soon. Since 1981- with arthritis, anniversaries and all- they have become satisfied residents in their NBA Foxwood Springs Living Center home.

Looking back over nine interim ministries in congregations located in metro Kansas City, Harry is proud to hold the title of minister-emeritus of Budd Park Christian Church of Kansas City. During a 21 year tenure, 1,900 new members were received.

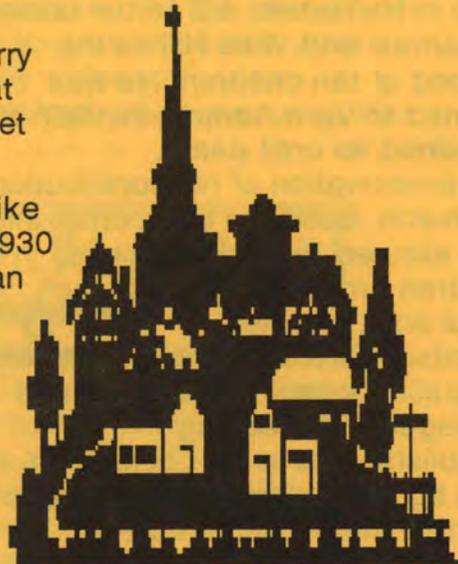
Like many of the early Disciples ministers, Parsons developed interest in Christian vocation through a variety of church youth groups. Commitment to ministry was the ultimate result. Before becoming a "Timothy" of First Christian Church in Kansas City, KS, he was active in youth associations and served with others as a "junior deacon."

Following graduation from high school in 1926, Harry became a ministerial student at Cotner College that September. During the first week on campus he met Frances Smith, another freshman student.

For the next four years until graduation they were like "two peas in a pod." Before graduating in May of 1930 Parsons was ordained by both the Bethany Christian Church and Cotner College. In September Frances and Harry married before beginning a nine year ministry at First Christian Church of Fort Collins, COL.

During their 60 years of ministry, Frances has devoted time to the nurture and motivation of three children and served as a quiet support to Harry- the pastor. Parsons has served as president of nine ministerial associations in the Rocky Mountain Area, Nebraska and Missouri; as well as president of the umbrella Disciples church organizations for churches in the Rocky Mountain Area, Nebraska and Greater Kansas City.

Between the misty flats of service and sacrifice, Dr. Parsons enriched his formal education in four institutions of higher education; like Colorado State University, Divinity School of the University of Chicago, McCormick Seminary, Chicago and Butler School of Religion (now CTS), By 1988 Harry had become retread. He accepted the moderatorship of Raymore Christian Church- where he and



(See Page 6)

A PROFILE- *from Page 5*

Frances were members. During his tenure plans were completed for the second successful building program and the present pastor- Dale Stewart- was called.

After 60 plus years to steady public witness to partnership in ministry, they continue side by side.



Vernon Batist Hill, St. Louis, MO- Faithful lay leader and member of Centennial Christian Church, died November 12, 1991. Brother Hill was born in Hollindale, MS to the union of Samuel and Willa Hill as the second of ten children. He was married to Vera Admore in 1927 and remained so until death.

The preservation of his contributions to church, business and community was assured through the seven children produced by this union. (Four sons and two grandsons were among the pallbearers). He founded and managed dry cleaning establishments in St. Louis for more than 60 years. During his 40 years of membership in Centennial he helped found a day nursery, and served as a church school teacher and advisor to youth.

NOTE: While the OLDTIMERS' editor served as pastor of Centennial Christian Church (1950-60), the Vernon Hill family joined the Pastoral Family as pioneer ethnic minority registrants in the first interracial family camps sponsored in 1953 by the Missouri churches.

***Hazel Byfield, Kingston, Jamaica-** vice-president and former general secretary of the Disciples of Christ in Jamaica, and staff member for the Jamaica Council of Churches, died January 5, 1992 after a long battle with cancer. Hazel was known as an ecumenical Christian. She was a long time member of the International Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council and represented the Jamaican Disciples in several biennial sessions of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (D. of C.) Her husband- Dr. Bevis Byfield- is head of the department of Christian education in the United Theological College of the West Indies and serves as a minister for Disciples of Christ congregations in Jamaica. .



***Earl Seitz, Indianapolis, IN-** retired pastor for several Midwestern congregations and interim ministries- died January 14, 1992. Among family and friends left to mourn his loss is wife Ethel E. Seitz of Indianapolis- a retired public school teacher. Earl was a polished pulpeteer. As a faithful member of Downey Avenue Christian Church he once provided volunteer membership visitation services. Another unique Seitz contribution to Downey was to offer one of his books on the history and nature of the Bible to the Christian Men's Fellowship group as the basis for a study series. Members of the CMF volunteered to read chapters and lead the CMF's study during the regular Saturday morning meeting,

LENT = "...and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

NEW LIFE FOR OLDTIMERS

***Marilynne Hill, Indianapolis, IN-** retired administrative director of Week of Compassion and former teacher at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS (i. e. closed since 1954) returned to this general office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) January 27, 1992 to serve the interim director.

***Harvey and May Sweet Lord, Chicago, IL-** retired pastors- formerly at University Church in Chicago, IL and faculty of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN) have returned from a two year assignment in Laoag, Philippines "feeling guilty" for having to leave. The transition involves leaving a society where they lived on \$250 per month to be back in the U.S.A where they may not "squeeze so tightly on the pesos."

***Alice Langford, Indianapolis, IN-** After 28 years of service via the Church retired from the church's division of overseas ministries December 30, 1992. Alice will continue to serve in the church with her husband- Pastor Alec.

SIMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND BENEFIT EVENT CONTINUES

Fort Worth, TX- The seventh annual Michael Stephen Sims Gospelfest held December 5-6, 1991- a fund raising event for an Endowed Scholarship Fund at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX- was reported successful.

According to Naomi Sims, the family is already making plans for the eighth annual event in 1992. Mrs. Sims states that to-date the

scholarship...has been given thirteen times through the 1991-1992 school year in Michael's memory...and dedicated to the late Dr. Paul A. Sims." (Michael was a senior at Jarvis College, Hawkins, TX when he was killed by a drunk driver. Dr. Sims died unexpectedly during the early days of his retirement.

Naomii continues: "We really work hard for this and are proud that we can help some of our needy children stay in school.

This was both Michael and Paul's way of life-helping others. They both really believed in this."



Dr. Paul Sims was a pioneering church leader in the Southwest with positive impact on all members- especially African American- in church, school and community life.



Margaret Owen, Melbourne, FL- retired Disciples of Christ minister and overseas missionary died February 1, 1992. She was widely known as an established leader of women and church. In addition, she joined her husband- George Earle Owen- in a unique "bridge-building" role between various factions within the Restoration Movement tradition.

During their retirement Margaret assisted her husband in providing seasonal boat chaplaincy services for an ocean liner company. George Earle and daughters- Deborah and Margaret Clark- continue her memory through their Christian ministries.

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

Lent- March 1 - May 15, 1992 is a time for the special enhancement of the soul. A time to seek increased enlightenment on the true meaning of communion with God via Christ.



May we find time for refreshment- to pause for reflection on our selves, family, job, and world- to hear more clearly what God is saying to us where we live.

*WHEN I REACHED FOR THE LETTUCE at the salad bar of the Foxwood Springs dining room, the 80 year old colleague of mine behind me said, "I'm tired, I've been baking cup cakes for my daughter. She's in charge of an MLK BIRTHDAY observance program this year in her office. The program is stressing better race relations." Ernest J. Newborn, (RECONCILIATION director) recently sent a special note to churches on: WHY BLACK HISTORY MONTH? He closed with the word: "Perhaps the day will come when contributions of all Americans will be so appreciated and accepted that there will be no need in any ethnic group to call attention to its achievements." WKF

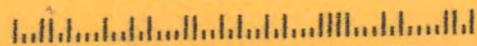
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Raymore, MO 64083



May
Mrs. ~~Mary~~ F. Reed @
1101 Nineteenth Avenue, South
Nashville TN 37212



"...WHAT WILL IT PROFIT...IF THEY GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD BUT FORFEIT ... LIFE?"



The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. II No. 3

May - June 1992

Raymore, Missouri

CURATOR GIVES JARVIS J. N. ERVIN LECTURES

Jackson, MS- Dr. Jesse C. Mosley, first curator of the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center and coordinator of the Federation of Negro Women's Clubs work in Mississippi was the J. N. Ervin Lecture Series lecturer in Hawkins, TX during the April 2 1992 Jarvis Christian College Founder's Day observances.

Dr. Mosley was chosen to speak because she is a Jarvis alumna who represents the successful application of principles in education fostered by the late J. N. Ervin. Ervin was a learned pioneer African American prophet from Tennessee who became president of Jarvis during its formative years. He was a major cause for the institution's up-grading from a secondary school to an accredited four year college.

Since the founding of the museum September 3, 1984, Dr. Mosley has received international recognition for the two million dollar renovation and conversion operation on the building which once served as the first black public school in Jackson, turning it into the Smith Robertson museum. (When racial integration was adopted as a policy in 1970 the school was abolished.)

Under her direction, a significant collection of artifacts has been assembled which heralds the



Dr. Jesse C. Mosley, Jackson, MS

contributions of African American Mississippians to society. Recently, the Institute of Museum Services in Washington, D. C. designated the Smith Robertson museum to receive one of the two "From Field to Factory" traveling exhibits for permanent supervision.

Dr. Mosley is a member of United Christian Church of Jackson, MS and widow of the late Dr. Charles C. Mosley - both retired faculty and school administrators (1940 - 1950's) within the institutional mission program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

OLD COLLEGE PROFESSORS DON'T "JUST FADE AWAY " by Virgil Hinds, Raymore, MO

Cleatus and I are old professors who have retired from the faculty of Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA and refuse to "just fade away." I joined the staff in 1958 as chairman of the department of religious studies and 16 years later retired as Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies. Cleatus, was a class mate of mine at Phillips University, Enid, OK. and did not want to take the required Greek course. But she went on to become the Greek teacher's student assistant. After eleven years of teaching at Lynchburg she retired in 1976 as associate professor of English..

People are curious as to why we would move from Virginia to Missouri. I point out several curial reasons: First, Foxwood Springs offered a type of living conditions not to be found elsewhere at that time (1979). I refer to a plan whereby the residents maintain full equity in their residence (home).



"The Royal Order of the Crooked Cue" in action- Virgil Hinds, right foreground.

Second, we're closer to our daughters and other relatives and, vital church connections. And third, I believe the leadership of Foxwood Springs and its residents constitute a community of supreme quality. Once each month I meet with some of the retired ministers living in

Kansas City. The group varies in number, personnel, and denominational affiliations. They represent a wide range of experiences as pastors, bishops, professors, world travelers. As we share in lunch fellowship and program, many

(See page 5)

GENEVA GRIFFIN COMPLETES THREE OPERAS

Indianapolis, IN- Geneva Griffin has just completed singing in the third opera in the 1991 - 1992 series sponsored by the Indianapolis Opera Company. Following auditioning in June of 1991, she was chosen from many applicants to sing in "Porgy and Bess," "Madame Butterfly," and "Lucia di Lamermoor."



The "Porgy and Bess" performance was the first in Indianapolis history to have the opera house sold out! "Madame Butterfly" was also a sold out event.

Geneva accepted the challenge to participate in spite of her senior citizen status. An all-Black cast produced "Porgy and Bess." Out of the 45 persons rendering the other two operas, three African Americans were in "Madame Butterfly," and five in "Lucia di Lamermoor."

Many will remember Mrs. Griffin when she joined her late husband, Dr. Thomas Griffin, Sr. as co-director of music for the 1976 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held in Kansas City, MO.

"THE LITTLE MISSIONARY" RETIRES AGAIN!

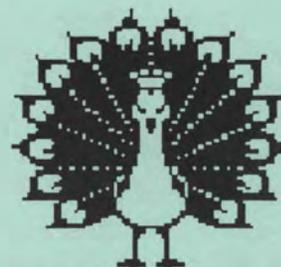
After teaching Japanese in Indiana University-Purdue University of Indiana for the past eight years, Itoko Maeda has closed her books and declined further university teaching appointments.

Itoko- the retired "Little Disciples of Christ Missionary" of the United States,

Canada and Japan has retired again!! During her "active" years she provided heroic church ministries in Okinawa, Brazil, and Venezuela.

Maeda is now settling down to enjoy her residence in NBA's Robin Run Retirement Community and walking her eccentric dog, Chibi on the campus. She still encourages Japanese women to attend church at Downey Avenue Christian Church where she preaches to them in Japanese during sermon time. She has organized Japanese women in two localities outside Indianapolis.

Itoko has also resigned from her twelve years of membership on the board of Special Ministries to the Japanese in New York City. But she continues her terms on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the general steering committee of Reconciliation, and the board of elders in Downey Avenue Christian Church. -**Velva Dreese, Reporter-**



SHARING OUR JOY by Charles Holmes, Raymore, MO

Two questions were raised during the account of Cain's brief conversation with God many years ago which have sparked the lives of my wife, Christine and me. You remember that in Genesis 4:9, God asked Cain "Where is your brother? And Cain replied with the query: "Am I my brother's keeper?"



God has enabled us to accumulate a few earthly things after many years of labor and grace. Thus, we have thought seriously about the two questions raised in the conversation between God and Cain. Where are the great human needs and how can we and our possessions relate constructively to such needs?

We have decided to allow our estate to be managed through the annuities trustee services of the National Benevolent Association. In this way, even while we are alive, we can experience the joys and excitement which our estate brings to our son who was adopted from the St. Louis Christian Home (now known as Echo), St. Louis, MO.

Furthermore, as we associate with our friends and neighbors here in the Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center where we live, we get a warm feeling inside. We know that our annual contributions to the Fellowship of John (benevolence) Fund assures that no resident will need to leave

Foxwood if extended illness and other drastic circumstances cause them to run out of money.

Christine and I enjoy reading THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE so much that we just wanted to share this bit of joy with you. It gives a sense of peace and security to know that when the great transition is made, family will not face a probate court or unreasonable attorney's fees. Further, the I. R. S. will give us special consideration because the management of our estate is essentially a gift to the church. How are you dealing with the two questions raised by God and Cain?

ORGAN HIGHLIGHTED

***Chicago, IL-** A highlight of the 103rd Anniversary of Park Manor Christian Church was the dedication of \$43,000 digital computerized Allen Organ in November 1991. Guest organists rendered a special recital featuring the harpsichord attachment which adds some 12 to 15 sounds to the magnificent instrument. The project is the result of a year's over-and- above giving from members and friends. **-Marthetta McMickle, Reporter**



MORE DONORS- THANKS

Oscar Haynes,, Washington, D. C.; James/Judith Frazier, Raymore, MO; A. Dale/Betty Fiers, Palm Beach Shores, FL; Joseph/Winnifred Smith, Indianapolis, IN; Charles Homes, Raymore, MO; Thelma Pyatt, Indianapolis, IN; Amy Hohman, Raymore, MO

LETTERS OF CELEBRATION

*Things are going well with me. I have been exceptionally busy with the Embrace the Future Campaign, serving on the Steering Committee and Director for the Capital Area. Exciting things are happening at Greenwood. (The cemetery in Nashville, TN owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention corporation and allied with the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We (the cemetery) made Channel 2 (ABC TV) News on both the 5:00 and 10:00 P. M. telecasts on Saturday, February 8th. There was also a write-up in the Tension (section) of the newspaper on Sunday, February 9th.- **Oscar Haynes, Washington, D. C.-**

*Nice publication. Keep it up!
-**James K. Frazier, Raymore, MO**

*We are both well and active. On April 21st we are going to Indianapolis to participate in the Recognition Dinner for James Reed given by the Board of the Christian Church Foundation. (Jim retired as president last year.)

He is the last of the original general cabinet with which I worked as G. M. P. (General Minister and President)
-**Dale and Betty Fiers, Palm Beach Shores, FL-**

LET'S PRAY FOR:



***Rosa Page Welch of Port Gibson, MS** who suffered a stroke in Chicago March 23, 1992 while visiting her sister, Leslie Smith.

She was hospitalized for a brief period. She was moved (temporarily) to the Boman Health Center, 710 S. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60612.

***Enoch W. Henry of Los Angeles** who had a heart attack April 10, 1992 following attendance at a revival service at United Church.

***Beatrice Mosley of Jackson, MS** (retired dept. of education head at Jackson State Univ.) now recuperating from extended hospitalization. (Member of United Chr. Ch.)

PROFESSORS- from page 2

questions arise as to past services and present activities. Cleatus often joins me in a similar fellowship called the Disciples Ministers' Association of metro Kansas City.

We both still attack our opportunities to teach in the Raymore Christian Church Sunday School with earnest glee. Occasional expressions of gratitude is ample compensation.

Finally, I am always ready to answer to the call of the "Royal Order of the Crooked Cue." With my cue in its case I will instantly head for the Foxes (recreation) Den for serious games of pool.

Such an environment has made it easy for us to join many others in performing volunteer services. I am a volunteer member of our transportation service for residents We accept our share of membership on committees sponsoring church and Foxwood Springs programs. We are old professors who refuse to "fade away."

GOODBYE A. C. STONE- FEARLESS DISCIPLE ENABLER!

Cincinnati, OH- April 12, 1992 Alfred C. Stone died at home. He had wrapped the drapery of his couch around him and left a rich legacy of Christian discipleship to a dear wife- Bessie R.; daughter Randa Hallstock, six grandchildren and especially the church and community. The memorial service held on April 16 at United Christian Church paid homage to a Disciple of Christ who believed earnestly in the "priesthood of all believers."

In 1982 "A. C." introduced an article on "Lay Leadership for a Plan of Action" with these clear words:



Alfred C. Stone

"A few years ago Mexico Hayden, Jr...and Lorenzo J. Evans joined me in my dissatisfaction with listless church laypersons...

God has enabled us to build a tool which...will make an apathetic congregation come alive...It is a tool for getting 'dead' Christians to rise up and be true Disciples of Christ."

Selling this belief became a major mission in his life. Armed with a simple concept, laced with message, methods and deep personal commitment, he went everywhere speaking to anyone who would listen.

Stone's persistent quest for honesty and quality in Christian performance sparked African American Discipleship in 1949 to establish the Star

Supporter Scholarship program for young people preparing for ministry. It stirred the National Christian Missionary Convention to address the need for more effective stewardship of finance in 1956.

In 1959 Stone's persistence helped shape the National Convocation into a vehicle moving toward full partnership in mission. It provided showcase Reconciliation ministries in Cincinnati in 1989. Stone's spirited efforts aroused laymen to assume their rightful place in church structures as elected officers in 1976.

The former Mammoth Insurance manager was among a select number of senior churchmen recruited to attend the first Afro-American Leadership Empowerment Conference held in Indianapolis May 13-15, 1989. His leadership

in church and, community was sought after until death.

W.K.F.



A Mark of Stone Legacy

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...that they may rest from

A. JEAN WOOLFOLK- DYNAMIC CHURCH LEADER- DEAD



Little Rock, AR- Following an extended siege of illness which required confinement in local infirmaries, Dr. A. Jean Woolfolk, the first woman general moderator of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church, and retired president of the Church Finance Council, was called to her reward April 18, 1992. A memorial service held April 22 at Pulaski Heights Christian Church gave solace to her sister, Josephine Knowels and other relatives and friends.

Jean completed service as moderator with the 1975 San Antonio Assembly to become the first woman to head a major general church unit January 1, 1976. She sat on the General Cabinet with other unit executive heads to advise the General Minister and President.

Drawing on her experience in law and business, the perceptive lay leader often gave clear analyses of complex and challenging issues confronting the church. Colleagues could sense a deep infusion of the Christ spirit and personal acquaintance with the Jehovah God when they heard her public prayers and saw her daily Christian witness. Often when general church board or assembly meetings lagged or became heated, the former cheerleader for the University of Arkansas "Razorbacks" would be encouraged to lead a Razorback "hog call." This loosened up any situation.



National Convocation of the Christian Church leaders recall that when she was president of the Church Finance Council, it was noted (again) that many African American Disciples of Christ congregations had untapped financial stewardship potential. Upon request from the field, selected African American Disciples of Christ field consultants who had been selected and oriented were dispatched to such congregations in an effort to release this potential. -WKF-

(Tear here & send to: OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE, 500 Mott Dr. Apt. 102-B Raymore, MO 64083)

EDITOR FOX, ENCLOSED IS MY-

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Name: _____ Address: _____

*I'LL SHARE THE FOLLOWING WITH OLDTIMERS': (Note the attached.)

*ATTACHED ARE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PROSPECTIVE READERS.

their labors, for their deeds follow them!" - Revelation 14:13 RSV

MYERS' APPRECIATION

Kansas City, MO- Through the initiative of the sons and daughters of S. S. and Martha Myers, Sr. a special appreciation dinner for several friends was held April 5, 1992 at the home of daughter Mrs. Jean Bates. Sons Michael Myers and Sere S. Myers, Jr. of Kansas City and daughter Staycee Williams of Los Angeles, CA, were joined by grandchildren to host the gala event.

Thanks were given for the acts of kindness shared with "S. S. Sr." and Martha during Sere's recent illness. Michael Myers and wife associated with Jean to perform the major chef duties. A delicious hot buffet in generous amounts was provided for all. Myers, Sr. is the emeritus minister of Swope Park Christian Church.

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Vol. II No. 4

July - August 1992

Raymore, Missouri

◆ WE MISS HER!...

WHERE DID LOIS GO?

by **Velva Dreese**

Raymore, MO- Do you remember Lois Mothershed of Little Rock, AR? She was an African American young lady who worked in the Christian Womens Fellowship department of the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church serving National Christian Missionary Convention during for a couple of years during the late 1940's.

She married Jeep Pot of the Netherlands and went there to live. They have two sons- Golbert and Michael. The whole family lives busy and useful lives.

Lois is part of a group which organizes courses in painting, sculpting, drawing and related crafts. She is interested in a water color group. Her long interest in music and specific concern with vocal performance, continues through membership in a choir. The group recently sang the Coronation Mass. She especially enjoys her activity with an African-American women's group called "The Spectrum." Last winter and spring Lois had an extended illness due to an especially vicious type of blood poisoning. Jeep is currently interim president of a Dutch/Japanese



company. Last January he made his first extensive trip to Japan. Lois accompanied him to Madrid, Spain and enjoyed the art work she found there.

Lois' concern for good music continues through the children. Though Michael is studying marketing and business management, he still plays his bass guitar in a jazz orchestra which performs all over the country. It plays in Poland twice a year. Michael has ten music students.

Gilbert, the youngest, is involved exclusively in music. His band plays in Holland and Belgium and in 1991 also played twice in Poland. Gilbert composes most of the music.

MEET ME IN CLEVELAND!

BRING ME NEW NAMES
AND SUPPORT FOR THE
OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
LIST.

William K. Fox - Editor



◆ UPPER MIDWEST

DISCIPLES & BLACKS

by **Henrietta Edwards**

Des Moines, IA- African American members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are nearly invisible as you go westward over the Missouri River.

But Des Moines, IA still contains some evidences of their existence largely through the historic role of Drake University in the education of several U.S.A. and Jamaican students.

The African American Alfred Edwards household- members of First Christian Church here and former Drake students- are a classic example. Alfred, Sr. is a retiree, current elder, church photographer, and member of the Disciple Men's and Church Security committees. He formerly served as chair of the diaconate and was on the regional board.

Wife- Henrietta- is currently serving as an elder and is president of the Christian Womens Fellowship. She is also on the Minister's Cabinet and Church

See "Blacks in"- Page 2

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

IN MEMORIAM

BEATRICE BUTLER MOSLEY- EDUCATOR

Jackson, MO- May 28 the historic campus chapel of Jackson State University was filled with representatives of school, church, community; and a variety of professional groups who joined the presidents and faculty from three Mississippi colleges to celebrate and give testimony at the homegoing of Dr. Beatrice Butler Mosley. She died May 22.

Family and friends from as far northeast as New York and southwest as Texas were led by Dr. Mosley's children - Kathy Yvonne of Washington, D. C. and Charles III of Jackson during the hours of memorial. Closely allied was Dr. Jesse B. Mosley, mother-in-law of the deceased.

Beatrice Mosley shared her extensive scholarship and experience to enable her congregation to serve others. She led in the establishment the United Church's Day Care and Stella Willis Tutorial Centers. Following retirement from Jackson State University

See "Beatrice" Page 3

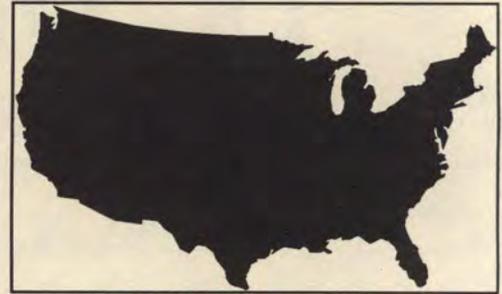
RUTH ELLINGTON ACTIVE

St. Louis, MO- For the past 35 plus years Ruth Ellington (widow of the late Norman S. Ellington, founder of the *Reconciliation Mother-to-Mother Program*) has taught the primary children in the Centennial Christian Church Sunday School. Granddaughter, Jennifer Twitty (Daughter of *NBA's Vice-President for Program Planning* Norma Ellington-Twitty) reluctantly moved from her grandmother's class last September. (Ruth is also a member of the elder's board.)

Among the things filling out Grandmother Ruth week's routine is being a volunteer in the Delmar-Harvard School of *Partners for Excellence in Education (PEEP)* program. Every Tuesday morning two first graders see her for their enjoyable one-to-one encounter. The program is designed to build self-esteem and tutor children in their studies. Ruth's granddaughter, Jennifer, leaves the Delmar-Harvard school this year, but grandmother plans to continue her volunteer services.



BLACKS IN THE MID-WEST *from p.1*



board. Her regional church involvement includes regional board membership and NBA's Ramsey Home and the Metanoia memberships on the boards of Church Women United.

Son- Alfred, Jr.- is the current chair of the search committee seeking a new minister. His additional involvements include membership in the Diaconate, Disciple Men, and the Child Care and Elderly Food projects. He has been an assistant church treasurer and chair of the diaconate.

The Upper Midwest Region includes other African American Disciples of Christ like the David Hawkins Family- members of the Wakonda Christian Church- and others space does not permit to mention. David Hawkins is the son of the late Dr. Jesse Hawkins- a graduate of the old Drake School of Religion, prominent pastor and school administrator at Jarvis. Christian College, Hawkins, TX.

MEET ME IN CLEVELAND!

BRING ME NEW NAMES
AND SUPPORT FOR THE
OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE
LIST.

William K. Fox - Editor



THE EDITOR'S DOINGS

One of the faithful readers of THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE recently wrote: "You are always putting something in the newsletter about other people. But what are you doing? Tell us about you!"

Well, ever since May 22, 1992 Reubena and I have had special prayers and concern for our son-Wm. Jr. in San Diego, CA- who was diagnosed as having cancer of the prostate and had to undergo exploratory surgery and then special injections. This year he sold me on the idea of up-grading my computer and getting into software I never new existed. The current issue is my second experiment in trying to use Microsoft Publisher- for example. But Bill Jr. is still a mainline concern.

As of June 1, 1992 I've been focusing on my fifth interim ministry since retirement in 1982. I'm joined with Floyd Knight- a young seminarian from Chicago, IL- in a (3 mos.) co-summer interim ministry at the historic Bader Memorial Christian Church in East Side Kansas City, MO.

We're part of a team ministry to bring a traditional all-Caucasian congregation to implement a refined statement of mission aimed toward more effectively lifting up Christ to meet the spiritual/social needs of people in the parish area. It's bridgebuilding.

MORE DONORS! THANK YOU !!!

The Oldtimers'
Grapevine continues to
grow because people
continue to share.
Tell a friend.

*Drs. C.W./Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; George/Clytee Washington, Chicago, IL; Minelle Nowland; Dr. Virgil/Cleatus Hinds, Raymore, MO; Dr. Sere/Martha Myers, Kansas City, MO; Artie M. Scott, Chicago, IL; Walter/Grace Giffin, Sun City, AZ; Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS; W.E./M. Starn, Columbia, MO; Velva Dreese, Raymore, MO; Sybel/Harvey Thomas, Chicago, IL; Jesse D. Scott, Las Vegas, NE

BEATRICE B. MOSLEY- EDUCATOR *from Page 2*

she enabled several grant awards to come to Jackson State for the initiation of a five year project (1987-1992) funded by Title III, Part B-- Strengthening the historically Black College.

Pastor Samuel J. Murray of United Christian Church presided at the memorial service. Dr. William K. Fox, Sr. of Raymore, MO- a former interim pastor of United Church and long-time friend of the Mosley household, delivered the eulogy. The United Church, Mt. Helm Baptist Church choirs and the All City Chorus provided the music. -

MARTHA TAYLOR- PIONEER DISCIPLE by Bill Starn, Reporter



Columbia, MO- On May Day 1992 Martha Taylor was to receive the traditional crown as Queen of the Lenoir May Day Festivities of the Lenoir Retirement Center here. The residents at Lenoir had so elected Martha. But she passed on to undoubtedly receive her much deserved golden crown that very day. A beautiful memorial service was held celebrating her life a few days following.

Note: Martha was the wife of the late George Oliver Taylor who headed the Christian education activity of the United Christian Missionary Society for the Disciples of Christ during World War II.

Many like the OLDTIMER'S GRAPEVINE editor were first introduced to the Youth Conference movement and the challenge of Christian vocation through the steadfast concern of George Oliver. Martha, his wife, was a devoted help mate.

The Oldtimers' Grapevine

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Los Angeles, CA

LETTERS TO EDITOR

June 20, 1992

Dear Minister Fox:

On April 29th, 1992 the Las Vegas Branch NAACP building and Second Christian Church was completely destroyed by fire due to the rebellion related to the Rodney King case in Los Angeles. Everything was completely destroyed; all of our books, papers, records and church equipment...

The search is on to find another building where Church services can be held. Our hope is that we will find a building that can be used jointly for day care of children and worship services.

I just wanted you to know that I am still praying, trusting, and waiting

on the Lord to deliver as he promised he would in Matthew 28: 19-20.

During the month of May, I was named as Distinguished Nevadan by the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and presented an award during graduation ceremonies. I remain Your Brother in Christ,

Jesse D. Scott
Second Christain Church P. O. Box
4121
Las Vegas, Nevada 89127

EDITOR: Rev. Scott is known to me as as effective NAACP Branch President and passtor of the Disciples mission which has tried to relate to the Disciples. Effective help is merited.WKF

RETURN ADDRESS-

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The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. II No. 5

September - October 1992

Raymore, Missouri

DR. ERNEST NEWBORN, SR. RETIRES DEC. 31!

Given Award During Final Steering Meet

Indianaolis, IN- While friends and associates in church work looked on approvingly, recognition activities for Dr. Ernest J. Newborn, Sr's retirement this year were launched by giving him the first Reconciliation Merit Award at a special dinner at Missions Building September 18, 1992 climaxing the General Recon-ciliation Steering Committee fall meeting.

Deputy General Minister and President John Foulkes, administrative secretary of the National Convocation, and chair of the Steering Committee, moderated.

The Rev. William K. Fox, Sr.- a mentor of Newborn's- was invited to keynote the affair. Testimonies from colleagues and friends affirmed the sterling quality and dedication of Dr. Newborn's services as the administrative director of Reconciliation for the past 15 years. His tenure is longer than previous directors J. Compton, T. Griffin, and W. Fox.



The Newborns- Ernest and Janice- checking out retirement residences with retirees Doris and James Matthews in Sun City, AZ??

Under Newborn's leadership the Reconciliation Fund made steady increases in receipts and in the improvement of promotional materials and techniques.

Within the past ten years he became known as the Reconciliation director who "has

See NEWBORN, page 2

HOLY COW!! IT HAPPENED!!

Carnella Jamison Barnes of Los Angeles, CA- At the Jarvis Christian College Luncheon held at the 12th biennial session of the National Convocation in Cleveland August 12, 1992, Carnella was listed to bring brief

See HOLY COW!! , page 2

Inside This Issue:

1 Putting it on Record -- p. 2

2 Word from an SCIAN -- p. 3

3 Prayer for Healing the Heart! -- p. 4

4 Benjamin Meets Gorbachev! -- p. 5

5 Rand Records the "Journey!" -- p. 6

◆ **Marthotta McMickle**

Putting it on the Record!

Each of you is an archive of your congregation. History is so important and we have so much of the history in our churches. If your church does not have a church historian, please select someone who has a sense of history and a skill for gathering and organizing materials.

Examples of such materials are Sunday worship programs, any special events, church anniversaries, annual reports, minutes of church/board meetings, photographs and/or snapshots of groups or individuals.

Be sure that each individual and group shot is labeled with names, years, dates and events. Preserve the past and present so that the future generations will have something to build upon.

A Personal Commitment

I have been the church historian at Park Manor Christian Church in Chicago, IL for the past four years. I am committed to gathering, and organizing materials of the church and sending them to the Disciples of Christ Historical

See *PUTTING iIT DOWN*, P. 4



Pray for the city! Our prayers can change things.

HOLY COW!! from p. 1

biblical readings before the table prayer and eating. But Carnella proceeded to treat the patient diners to a superb 12 minute advocacy speech on the support of Jarvis Christian College!

***Calla Joseph of Philadelphia, PA Fellowship Christian Church- at ninety-four years of age Sunday, August 23, 1992, celebrated 86 years as a baptized**

See *HOLY COW!!*, p. 3

NEWBORN, from P. 1

bicycle and will ride for Reconciliation dollars" on call!

The most notable bike-a-thon venture was the 1983 Indianapolis, IN to San Antonio, TX endeavor converging there with bikers from metro Kansas City in time for the General Assembly. The project garnered nearly \$20,000. Other bike-a-thons were initiated in the Illinois-Wisconsin and the Greater Kansas City church regions.

Since Reconciliation's founding in 1968 congregations have given the Fund an average of \$500,000 to \$650,00. per year. Newborn's office guides a steering committee in making selective grants to church and community organizations dealing with race and poverty conditions.

Dr. Newborn retires December 31, 1992. His wife, Janice, is the senior associate for the Division of Homeland Ministries Office of Disciples Women; a son, Ernest, Jr is legal counsel for the Indianapolis Blue Shield-Blue Cross; and daughter Mary Jo is a law professor at San Diego State College, San Diego, CA.

Dr. William K. Fox's relevance to the affair came through his role in getting Newborn to join the Christian Church, commit himself to the Christian ministry, and get back on his bicycle.

FAR WEST- August 92

An SCIAN-Shares- J. Burnett

Dear Rev. and Mrs. Fox: It has been sometime since you heard from me...We have lots of grands and they stay with us more than they do with their parents. At the present time there are six of them playing out in our backyard...My mother is fine. She will be 91 September 13. This past week three of my sisters were home visiting her in Mississippi- Norma, Merdis and Choretha...They stayed three weeks to help Willett out...

I keep in touch with many former students (of Southern Christian Institute). We are going to try and plan another reunion for '93 or '94. The last one was in 1979... It will soon be forty years since the school closed...

Maybe I can write a brief article about my mom for your OLD-TIMERS' GRAPEVINE since she and dad were a part of the Disciples of Christ so many years...Please put me on your mailing list...

Josephine Miller Burnett, Sacramento, CA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Josephine is the wife of the Rev. Wendell Burnett, pastor of New Hope



Earl and Roberta Murray of Birmingham, AL renew vows.

Baptist Church in Sacramento. They have 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 8 step grandchildren. She and her sisters all graduated from Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS.

May 20, 1992 the Sacramento Women's Council consisting of 25 clubs held a recognition awards luncheon at the Tuesday Club where the Good Neighbors Club named Mrs Josephine Miller Burnett the "Outstanding Member of the Year." She chairs the Ways and Means Committee of the club which supports the only full-time subsidized day care center within the Del Paso Heights Area of Sacramento.

HOLY COW!! from P. 2

believer in the Christian Church. She is a prolific poetry and prose writer and attendant of general assemblies, National Conventions and Sessions.

***Montee and Albertha Akers, Sr of Chicago, IL** were honored on their 60th. wedding anniversary May 28th, 1992. The dinner reception was hosted by their son and daughter- Montee, Jr. and Marlene Edwards. The Akers family are long-time active members of Park Manor Christian Church in Chicago, IL.

***Dr. Earl and Roberta Murray of Birmingham, AL** had their clergy sons- Samuel (Jackson, MS) and Thomas (Birmingham, AL) to officiate at the celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Jeffries Memorial Christian Church June 28, 1992. Son Thomas is the pastor.

Earl was nurtured there as a "Timothy" under the late A. J. Jeffries. Earl and Roberta have 5 sons and a daughter; 26 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.

***Robert and Janet McNeill of Indianapolis, IN** "After 36 years of living in the same house, we made the big move to Robin Run Village." **Bob is a retired**

See HOLY COW!!! , Page 5

♦ PRAYER ACTION!

Prayer for the Heart- Gil. Olmsted

P rayer can change things. The following is a personal testimony of how a resident of Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO has spent the last 30 years praying for the healing of his heart.

The prayer pattern went like this: "Dear God in heaven, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you and praise You for every good thing." The following six things were always only part of expanding prayer concerns: people, congregations, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the ecumenical Church, Causes and Issues.

Then at the bottom of that list I would say: "I thank you for-

1. Quieting the beat of my heart
2. Repairing the valve
3. Strengthening the heart organ
4. Eliminating old, hard scar tissue
5. Generating new, strong, supple tissue
6. In order that the heart may function normally."



I did now and then remind the Lord that I thoroughly believed He could bring about an instantaneous healing of my heart- and such a surprise would be very nice!"

I prayed this way four times a day for 30 years- all of the above prayers- with the prayer for healing at the bottom of the list.

That is in 1 year - 1,460 times
In 30 years 43,800 times-

That is practicing patience- with no apparent results!

However, looking back, I think the praying kept me strong and kept the rate of deterioration slowed down, and rate of heart's enlarging slowed down.

Then, as a result of surgery April 10, 1992 all six prayers were answered. PRAISE THE LORD!

EDITOR'S NOTE- Gilford is a retired Disciples of Christ minister who has served in several pastorates including being a regional minister and member of the general church Reconciliation committee.

Putting It Down- from P. 2

Society in Nashville, TN each year. They will be stored there for future use.

I attended the first Church Historians Seminar in Nashville, TN in May 1990. My awareness of the life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been broadened through an active membership in the Association of Disciple Musicians. There is need for greater participation of African American Disciples of Christ musicians in this organization.

Since 1976 I have attended all but four of the national work-shops and served a three year term on the Planning Council (1985-88). At that time I was the first and only black person to serve on the Planning Council. The Association of Disciples Musicians is just one more place in the church where history needs to be improved.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Mc Mickle is a senior retiree who functions as a volunteer church organist and superb bible teacher of the largest Sunday morning and Wednesday evening adult classes in the Park Manor Christian Church.



◆ Benjamin in Moscow

Pastor Meets Gorbachev!

To **Russia With Love**" is the title Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin gave to his very interesting Journal of his six day Study Tour to Moscow, Russia April 26 - May 2, 1992. He left as his annual "Heaven on Earth Institute" was ending and a few days before the Los Angeles explosive response to the Rodney King Jury Verdict.

When the twenty-two member tour group went to the office of former president Mikail Gorbachev on April 29, 1992, Tom was one of four persons chosen to ask Mr. Gorbachev a question.

"Mr. President," said Tom, "where did you get the inner strength and courage to lead such a sweeping revolution?"

Dr. Benjamin's question was the first chosen to be addressed. However, according to Benjamin, Gorbachev chose to answer the question intellectually. The President claimed "necessity was the 'mother' of Perestroika." He did not discuss "inner strength or spirit."

Pastor Benjamin reports that before the group left the President's office Dr. Sundo Kim,

a pastor from Seoul, Korea and member of the Study Group, asked Gorbachev if his mother still prayed for him and whether he felt that her prayers had any impact on him. The President dealt with the question indirectly speaking about the nurture and care both his mother and father had given him.

When Dr. Kim indicated he would like to close the meeting with prayer and stand in a circle with all hands joined, Gorbachev agreed and stood in the circle with joined hands.

T. Garrott Benjamin closes his journal of this event with these lines: "As we left the building, I kept wondering what the result would be of a meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and Jesus; but then in some strange way, I felt he got an introduction today. I also felt it would take more than the fall of communism to produce freedom and democracy. THANK YOU JESUS!"

EDITOR'S NOTE- The Sept. 5 Religion Section of the **Kansas City Star** carried an Associated Press release stating that during a recent tour of Israel by Mikhail Gorbachev he termed himself a "lifelong socialist following in the footsteps of Jesus." Though Dr. Benjamin is not ready to be classified as an "Oldtimer," he honors seniors and is a booster of the **OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE**.

HOLY COW!!- from P 3

general church staff in Office of communication and Janet is a retired public school teacher.

***Eddie Lo Griffin of Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL** has been elected moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois-Wisconsin. She is the daughter of retired general church staff Lorenzo J. Evans of Indianapolis, IN. She is on the Board of Elders at Park Manor and has been moderator of the congregation.

***The "50+ Class of Gay-Lea Christian Church, Nashville, TN** sponsored a Memorial Service at the church May 24, 1992 in honor of its founder, the late Dr. Bessie Chandler. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr, minister at Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis where Dr. Chandler was once an active member, was the guest speaker.

EDITOR'S NOTE- Bessie Chandler was among the first African American women Disciples of Christ to be ordained to serve in the church. She was a professionally trained specialist in Christian education who served as a national field worker and general consultant to professional National Convention staff and various groups for many years. The Chandler Family of Nashville and Memphis, TN have been pioneer leaders.

◆ **Earl W. Rand**

Recording "The Journey"

The Vantage Press, Inc. New York City, has recently released an inspiring autobiography entitled **The Journey of Earl Wadsworth Rand: From There to Here/From Then until Now.**"

Dr. Rand uses his own words to describe a young Black man attending college during the years of the Great Depression... "who did not seem to have a rosy future. But with perseveraance, courage, and the loving support of his helpmate of a half century, his beloved wife, Verbie..." he "would pursue a distinguished career in the field of education, reaching the height of service as president of Jarvis Christian College."

Rand talks about "Wandering through the Educational Woods," or "What for? The Work Journey," or "Another Detour on the Journey."

The reader is challenged to walk the paths of progress from a two teacher grade school with more than 100 students operating five months out of the year. Then you will use a chalk board made out of painted wood and face the conditions of Jim Crow you may have

forgotten. It curtailed Rand's high school graduation. The Great Depression cut college plans short. World War II reordered priorities.

But in the end, a happy marriage, two children, a liberal arts degree and a doctorate in education were attained. Thousands of people were served. The Rands were loyal members and servants in the local church. The young reader will note the close association Dr. Rand maintained with his local church.

It may remind you of your "Journey." But Rand put his in writing. It might inspire you to do the same if you haven't already.

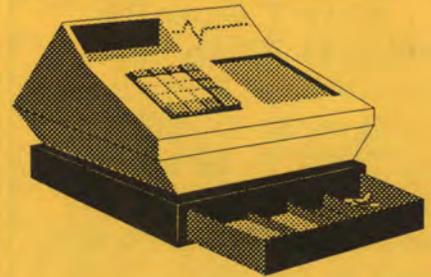
Youth and young adults will be motivated to pursue the highest preparation possible for life when you read the catalog of Dr. Rands ultimate achievements.

Further he received the respect and loyalty of friends and colleagues. **THE JOURNEY OF EARL WADSWORTH RAND** is available in your local book store for \$13.95.

TRY SOME READING.

We do need your donation!

**DONORS-
THANK YOU SO
MUCH!!!**



Edythe Grant, Raymore, MO; Mildred L. Webb, Harvey, IL; John C. Updegraff, Jacksonville, FL; Cavannah M. Clark, Oklahoma, OK; Carnella J. Barnes, Los Angeles, CA; Rufus Lewis, Birmingham, AL; Melba A. Hawkins, Hawkins, TX; David Hawkins, Des Moines, IA; Mrs. Peter (Rosae) C. Washington, Oakland, CA; Mary M. Watson, Kansas City, MO; Martha Sykes, Indianapolis, IN; Ruth R. Patterson, Philadelphia, PA



"Sure our church is reaching out — about as far from here as we can get!"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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◆ **Whom God Has Called**

For Whom the Bells Toll:

Eunice Dickson, member of the Warren Avenue Christian Church, Dallas, TX- died August 19, 1992 after prolonged illness in a local infirmary. She was a retired school teacher, and wife of Dr. Melvin C. Dickson, who has been pastor of the Warren Avenue congregation for 45 consecutive years. Emmet J. Dickson of Indianapolis, IN, her brother-in-law, was enroute to the Dallas area and therefore able to fulfill his brother's desire that he bring the eulogy.

Eunice was a loyal attendant and worker in the ministers' wives and Christian Womens fellow-ships of the National Convention and Convocation for many years.

Besides her husband, Pastor Melvin Dickson, she leaves to mourn her loss three sons- Melvin, Jr, Larry and Curtis and a daughter, Brenda..

***Dr. Lester Rickman of Columbia, MO died this summer** after a long crippling illness. He had been considered a "dean of state secretaries"- now called regional ministers. He served longest in Missouri.

***Blanche Brown, devoted member of United Christian Church, Jackson, MS - died unexpectedly August 18, 1992.** She leaves to mourn her loss a husband- E. L. Brown- a retired public school teacher who pioneered in the field of vocational education in Jackson. The Browns have been lay leaders in the maintenance of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness in Jackson, MS.

***Mary Agnes Harris of Port Gibson, MS- member of St. Luke Christian Church,** died from a massive heart attack in August. She was the beloved mother of Thomas Harris, one of Mississippi's few full-time African American Disciple pastors. He serves in Port Gibson and Indianola, MS. A daughter- Ada Ruth Boyd- directs a child care center for the United Christian Church in Jackson, MS

Please Pray For:

***Edna H. Richie of the Community Christian Church in Fort Worth, TX-** She has had a stroke. Write her at 2209 Newbury Dr, Arlington, TX. 76014

***Helen Pilgrim Minor, now in Indianapolis, IN-** She has had a stroke. Recovery is very slow.

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*** A. Dale and Betty Fiers of Palm Beach, FL** who were spared by Hurricane Andrew- It veered off south of Miami. while they were in Crystal Beach, MI.

***Thousands of other Floridians and Louisianians** who were not so fortunate. They are suffering.

***Brothers and Sisters like those listed in the Christian Womens Fellowship Prayer Calendar** who carry on quietly for the Christian Church in many little known places.

Finding Your Roots

Harms Cited!

John Harms of Edmund, OK- a relentless seeker of family roots and retired Disciples Church executive- recently received the Howard Goodard-Jones Memorial Award for writing the Goodard Book- an intensive treatment of his wife's family which has engaged him in genealogical research for nearly twenty years.

The award ceremony took place on the Malvern College campus near Birmingham, England April 17, 1992 during a large Goodard family celebration.

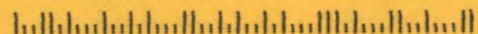


PERSONALITIES IN THE NEW VIDEO- THE DOOR IS OPEN- Patricia Clark, Social Services Staff Director for NBA (at podium) and coordinator of the special NBA Orientation Reception at the 12th biennial session of the National Convocation Aug. 11 presents Wm. & Reubena Fox and Edythe Grant- all of Raymore, MO and NBA Vice-Pres. N. E.-Twitty- actors in the new NBA video lifting up opportunities for living in NBA retirement centers and other facilities.

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May Mrs. ~~Wm~~ F. Reed @ 1101 Nineteenth Avenue, South Nashville TN 37212



The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. II No. 6

November - December 1992

Raymore, Missouri

❖ TEACHER SPOTLIGHTED

PAPER CALLS RETIREE "HERO"

Every week the Philadelphia, Pa DAILY NEWS uses a space in its Thursday edition as "a pedestal for unsung Philadelphia heroes." Recently they featured Ruth R. Patterson—a member of a prominent African American Disciples of Christian Church family and one of the first field workers employed (1945-46) by the National Christian-Missionary Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve women's groups. **The following commentary is based on that feature article.**

When Ruth R. Patterson was growing up in Oklahoma it seemed that a good education was beyond her reach. Her father died when she was and the Depression cost the family their farm.

Patterson curtailed her education and worked so that her three siblings could finish college. But eventually she made it too after completing a master's degree she taught in Philadelphia public schools for 29 years before retiring in 1983.

Even after retirement, Patterson kept going to school as a volun-

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5. *Meritorious Transitions p-5*



SUSAN WINTERS/ DAILY NEWS

Ruth R. Patterson-Teacher/Hero

teer at Alaine Locke School where she used to work.

'What's most impressive is that she's volunteered every day for the last nine years since she retired,' says City Council Woman Happy Fernandez, who nominated Patterson for hero recognition.

*Continued on page 3
"Hero"*

❖ A Blessed Saint's Death

VELVA DRESSE PASSES IN SLEEP

Raymore, MO- October 16, 1992- while in sleep, Velva Dreese, the Good Samaritan of the Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center - died. She had lived out her polar star scripture to "bear fruit that ...should abide." (John 15:16) She was born 92 years ago in Herington, KS to a humble rail-roader's family and later resided in Council Grove, She had answered the call to do missionary work while attending the College of Emporia (KS). She was oriented to the world wide mission through attendance at the Disciples of Christ College of Missions established in Missions Building, Indianapolis.

Continued on page 5



DONORS IS YOUR NAME HERE?

The following are donors to-date. Those with an asterisk have made a donation in 1992.

SEND DONATIONS TODAY if an asterisk does not appear behind your name!

Thanks!

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see page 3

RECENT DONORS THANKS SO MUCH!

*Frank/Mayme Garner, Jr. Paducah, KY; Ralph/Esther Keller, Raymore, MO; Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO; Ernest/Janice Newborn, Sr Indianapolis, IN; James C. Suggs, St. Louis, MO; Eddie E. Griffin, Delores/Richard Highbaugh, Chicago, IL; E. W. Rand.

"Hero" - from page 1

"She's exactly the quiet, consistent, loving kind of person the Heroes column is designed to highlight. She's a wonderful woman"

Patterson is also an accomplished seamstress and is active in The United Church of Christ."

Ruth says "They opened Alan Locke in September, 1965, and I have not withdrawn from the school since. I retired in 1983 and I have volunteered every year. I begin in October, to be sure the children are really settled down for work, and then I stay through until the end of May or early June. Each year I've done that for the last nine years.... People who come and sit down, you notice so many of them don't last very long. I feel excellent so what am I going to sit around for?"

We are in a very low income area many of our children come from the high-rise apartment buildings around us. There's a

lot of need for support and helping them. And the other reason was I had gone into the remediation mathematics program in 1972, and worked only in the remediation of math, children who were in the 16th. percentile. So I really adapted from the math program when I retired to come back and help children.

Knowing that these were children- and I don't mean to be racist- but these were black children, I often would say to them, 'I want you walking down the street with dignity!' And so then that's my reason for going back to help them secure better opportunities in life or even to inspire some one of them to to on and do more than they've done.

'I became a single parent, from when my youngest son was 4. Both of my sons have gone to college and they are teachers in the Philadelphia school system. I feel extremely happy that they have gone on to do what they can do for education.

I am going to continue to volunteer through this year. I've done very well for 10 years. I thought I might retire, but who knows? I might not want to stop going to school to help the children! The only thing I have to say to young people is to stay in school... stay in school! And strive to do whatever they can do to improve their lives- right on through adulthood."

Two of her brothers- James Ratten and Charles C. Mosley- were class-mates and athletes with (Pres) Ronald Regan at Eureka College, Eureka, IL Both were on the faculties of

Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX and the former Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS. Charles became dean of Southern Christian Institute and later head of the School of Education at Jackson State University. James was science teacher, athletic coach and dean of men at SCI and later taught in Philadelphia, MS while serving as a minister in Mississippi Disciples of Christ congregations."

❖ RETIREE VICTORY!!

New Horizons
by **Velva Dreesse***
In **Meritorious Transition**

Victory is in sight in the Philippines! After teaching many years in a vocational school Lily Concordia of Manila will retire. She has completed oral examinations and other requirements for receiving her doctorate in education. Her thesis will be printed and used as a text book in the school where she has been teaching for more than a generation! At last she will retire and do what she really wants to do most! Lily wants to devote her life fully to Jesus Christ and the church! While teaching she was also active in the church. She served as a regional worker, visited local Christian women's fellowship groups and conducted workshops and served in conventions.

See HORIZONS page 4

"NEW HORIZONS"

She is eager to visit family and friends in the U.S.A. church. Attendance at a general assembly; a biennial session of the National Convocation; and the International Christian Women's Fellowship Assembly are high on her agenda!

For many years Lily has celebrated her birthday with a party to which the entire congregation was invited. In 1970 she requested her pastor to conduct a rededication service for her. (The writer was present for that service.) She looks forward to hearing the Master's voice say one day, "Well done good and faithful servant." We look forward to meeting you in the U.S.A. some day, Lily! CONGRATULATIONS!

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** Velva wrote this article a few days before she died. While on her mission assignment in the Philippines she had become acquainted with Lily Concordia, the subject of this article. Velva was a booster and incorporator of the OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE. At age 92 she was an excellent writer. She typed everything out on an old typewriter! She became attached to people and they to her. Reubena Fox and I know we have lost a beautiful friend. She kept our hopes alive for coming to Foxwood Springs long before the opportunity presented itself. Once we were here she became a big sister. In her last days I feel she looked forward to death. October 11 I joined with one of our Raymore C.C. deacons to de-

liver communion to shut-ins. When we finally arrived at the health center we saw the love trail of Velma. She had already left the Sunday morning bulletin and special Week of Ministry program with three of the persons on our list. Meeting the needs of people was Velva's top

PRAY FOR:

***Lenora Rolla** of Fort Worth, TX- recuperating from a stroke.

***Mable Metze**, Indianapolis, IN- recently hospitalized for a slight stroke. Been released and doing fairly well. ***Zellie Peoples**, Indianapolis, IN also convalescing from recent hospitalization.

***Lula M. Fletcher**, Chicago, IL- ailing with serious kidney infection. (Widow of late E. Toy Fletcher.)

***A. Dale and Betty Fiers** of Palm Beach Shores, FL whose daughter- Barbara Fires Joyce, died of cancer October 10, 1992. Barbara lived in Beaverdam, VA with her husband- Hugh, and three teen aged children.

RETIREMENTS & RECOGNITIONS

M. Dickson- Dallas, TX- After 45 years of service to the Warren Avenue Christian Church as the senior minister, Pastor Melvin Dickson retired November 1, 1992. The only other congregation served by Pastor Dickson was Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, VA

W. Hannah- Indianapolis, IN- Festivities at Faith United Christian Church December 3-5, 1992 marked celebrative recognition of Dr. Hannah's planned retirement December 31, 1992 as senior pastor. Bill has 32 years of signal service as a founding pastor in Cleveland, OH and in two general church administrative staff positions.

S. Myers- Kansas City, MO- A "Hanging of the Greens" Advent ritual November 29, was an occasion for Swope Park Christian Church to dedicate a newly renovated rooms in honor of Emeritus Pastor Sere S. Myers. Myers was senior minister at West Paseo Christian Church 42 years before it merged with Swope Park 13 years ago. K. David Cole is the present senior pastor of the Swope Park United Church.



Blessed Death-

from P. 1

Her extensive ministry included teaching, work with children and youth in the Christian Churches of Kansas, the church women's CWF national program, and seven years of service in the Philippines. Memorial services were held at Raymore Christian Church October 24; at graveside in Council Grove Oct. 25; Oct. 28 at Foxwood Springs, Raymore and in the national office building of the denomination in Indianapolis, IN. Each highlighted her faithfulness in church, her work as an "angel of mercy" and her unflinching service.

Stanley Williams- Columbia, MO- chaplain and Handbell Choir founder and director at Woodhaven Learning Center from 1969 to 1989, died September 26, 1992. Stanley formed the choir in 1972 and for the next 20 years performed with the choir in all 50 states. As a result other groups were formed by similar institutions. He leaves a wife, 3 sons, a daughter and grandchildren to mourn his loss.



FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

Howard E. Fowler- Winchester, KY- memorial services for the faithful bi-vocational minister and pastor of historic Broadway Christian Church were held Sept. 18. He was a strong adherent for traditional interpretations of New Testament doctrine, Pastor Fowler served congregations on the West Coast for many years before coming to Winchester. He was skilled in finishing furniture.

Robert W. Tindall- Indianapolis, IN- a retired Chaplain (COL) in the United States Air Force and director of chaplaincy services in the denominations' department of ministry from 1971-1981, died September 6, 1992. He was a member of Third Christian Church. He leaves to mourn his loss a wife- Mildred- many family and friends. He performed an exceptional on-site pastoral ministry for chaplains all over the world and was deeply committed to expanding the opportunities for chaplaincy service to a diversified number of ministers.

Marion Henry- Oakland, CA- died September 24, 1992 while with immediate family. She had an extended period of illness. She was a dedicated help-mate in the ministry of her husband- Dr.

Enoch Henry and devoted caretaker in his illness. Marion was a gifted seamstress. She served a term as a gracious and successful president of the Minister's Wive's Fellowship of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Left to mourn her loss is a husband- Enoch Henry of Los Angeles, CA- and many friends.

Helen Pilgrim-Minor- Indianapolis, IN- a retired physical education and romance language public school teacher and short-term Disciples of Christ missionary to Zaire, Africa died in her sleep October 13, 1992 after a lingering illness. While captain of her Howard University tennis team, she became the first black to win the Ladies Open Tennis Championships. Following work in schools and the church, Helen circumnavigated the world twice; going to the North Pole once and South Pole two times. She lived in both Paris, France and Montreal, Quebec, doing free-lance writing and extensive lecturing in French on a variety of cultural subjects. She leaves a son, Jacques Minor, a daughter, Jocelyn H. Belleholder, a sister, Grace Pilgrim, and many friends.



AGING BRINGING JOY TO GARNERS!

Paducah, KY- A news letter from the Frank T. and Mayme Garner, Jrs (retired minister and pastor of Clay Street Christian Church) lifts up the following showers of blessings that have recently come into their full lives:

*Last June returned to Bond Hill Church in Cincinnati, OH (where he led in its establishment) to play an impromptu tenor saxophone "concert with Mike Chaney. Interim Minister John Compton and others were "shocked!"

*September- Frank's mother- Lillian Bryant- elder at Bond Hill celebrates her 88th. birthday.

*October 1- While getting his blood pressure checked at the hospital an ex ray revealed cancer and the need for lung surgery. It was successful and Frank is now having favorable radiation therapy.

*Frank/Mayme rejoicing in progress of their young "Timothy" Cornelius Brown- pastor of Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church, Brooklyn, NY. In celebration of the ministers' anniversary, the church brought two chartered busses to the Summit Christian Church in Dayton, OH- the congregation where he had attended church and worked with the youth while at the United Seminary.

*Mayme is ailing but both look forward to their Golden Marriage Anniversary January 30, 1993. Frank says "If the Lord is willing, I will play my new sax in church again."

❖ INSPIRED BY ASSEMBLIES

ASSOCIATION & READING FILL VOID

Mrs, Lillian Dixon of Knoxville, TN- missing a faithful mate- informed the Editor that she depends upon reading the GRAPEVINE and attending the National Convocation biennial assembly; General Assembly of the Church; and the World Convention of Churches of Christ because "it keeps her in touch with her friends." When she attended her 5th World Convention which was held in Long Beach, CA August 5-9, the theme- "God's Dominion From Sea to Sea"- came to life for her in the speeches, sermons and music. She was moved by the "Pagent of the Flags" representing the various nations in attendance; President Harold Watkins' address; Fred Craddock's bible lectures; and Sybel Thomas' challenging 3 hour session with the women. Mrs. Dixon reports that many of these events are on tapes which can be purchased.



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Alpha Arnold, Enoch W. Henry
Los Angeles, Ca

*In meritorious transition





WE ARE TWO YEARS OLD!

We must pause and express appreciation to all of you who have enabled THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE to celebrate its second birthday! Whenever senior citizens- especially members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)- understand the intent and nature of the OLDTIMERS' newsletter, they are eager to become a reader. Ninety-nine percent will make a free-will donation to help assure its publication and distribution. Praise God!

*Other members of the church who are not senior citizens see an issue and have sometimes expressed an interest. We have accepted their donations and placed them on the mailing list. We appreciate their interest in keeping up the doings of the older generation. However, they are not our target reader group. At the same time, we rejoice whenever we are able to share information which expands the knowledge of the whole church. -EDITOR-

YOU ARE THE "VINE."

*When you share your personal experiences with the GRAPEVINE, you make the senior network a reality.

*When you share your copy of the GRAPEVINE with a prospective reader you can help expand the THE VINE.

YOU KEEP US GOING.

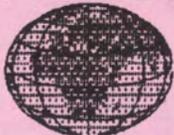
*When you make a reasonable donation at least once a year, you enable us to publish and distribute.

You enable us to improve the product.

*WE SEEK 125 NEW DONORS IN 1993! HELP US REACH THE GOAL!

-W.K.F. -SR.- Manager

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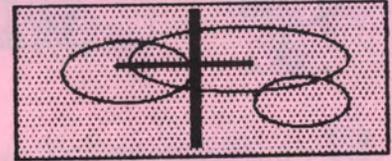
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What Will You Bring?

In a story about the birth of Jesus called "The Well of the Star" the author has a scene where a little boy named David is peering through a crevice in the manger wall. He sees richly dressed kings doing homage before the babe wrapped in swaddling

clothes. The shepherds, Eli, Jacob and Tobias kneel with heads bent and hands clasped in an attitude of prayer.

Before them on the hard floor lay their gifts. Eli's shepherd's crook which once belonged to his father. Jacob's cloak lined with the lamb's wool. Tobias' goat skin poach which he fashioned to hold water. They brought their most valuable and useful gifts.

divine. While keeping their sheep one night they had felt a holy presence. A message of hope and a heavenly choir were heard. Instructions were given for finding the manger. A spiritual magnet had drawn them!

Christ can be drawn anew into your life these days and in 1993- even with our Somalia's etc. How much of your self will you bring to God in appreciation for the for the rebirth of Christ in your life?

They had been impacted by the

-THE OLDTIMERS' STAFF-

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