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2011

### The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 20 (January - December 2011)

Joyce I. Knox

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# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

January—March '11

Volume 20, Issue 1

... they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 4:3b(NRSV)



Oscar, Eli and Joan

### Oscar and Friends Mark Black History Month in Reston, VA

by Oscar Haynes

These are exciting times, as we celebrate the *Oldtimers'* 20th year of continuous publication. We thank God for blessing this ministry, founded by Rev. Dr. William K. Fox (renowned church and community leader), and sustained by our many supporters. We are happy to introduce our newest staff writer, and beloved friend, Mrs. Jimmy Mohler of Kansas City, MO, whose first column appears in this issue.

Writing as we wrap up Black History Month, I'd like to share words that I presented at the Reston Museum on February 19th, at a ceremony recalling events from the Civil Rights Era. It was a standing-room-only evening featuring community leaders. The lead-off speaker was 96-year-old Robert Simon, founder of this planned community in northern Virginia. He related how, as a young man, he read about a group of black soldiers who were transporting white prisoners, and they made a stop at a Harvey House restaurant outside Chicago. The white prisoners were served in the dining room, and the black soldiers were confined to eat in the kitchen. Simon stated, "When I founded this community, it was inconceivable that it not be an open community."

Other featured speakers were: Vern and Vicky Wingert; Carol Ann Bradley, a board member at the Reston Community Center; Ralph Cosham, a native of England; and Dave Slater. The program was organized by Museum board member Ellen Graves, a community activist. The evening ended with singing of songs from civil rights demonstrations, led by Squire Muse and

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*Black History cont'd*

Mrs. Graves. I was the last speaker. I greeted the audience thusly:

Dear Friends -- yes, I said friends, and I approve that salutation. I know many of us have not met, but I've never met a stranger, so you now are my friends. Being a person of great faith, my daily habit is to begin and end each day with an ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE. My notes include only key highlights of my journey during the civil rights period. I firmly believe if all persons would greet each other with love and respect then we would overcome the ugly practices of racism and sexism created by the segregation laws. Our peaceful demonstrations to overcome these laws would lead to much less loss of life and property. This was evidenced again over the past few weeks during the demonstrations in Egypt.

The civil rights action, for me, began with the sit-in demonstrations in Washington, DC, in 1946. In our nation's capital, segregation was rampant. The only public accommodation for mixed parties was Union Station. My sit-in assignment was the Greyhound Bus Terminal, with a white male and female about my age. The three of us developed a friendship which lasted long after the demonstrations.

One of my most shocking experiences occurred when I arrived at the swanky Flamingo Hotel on Miami Beach for a summer job during college break. A large sign on the front lawn read: NO DOGS OR JEWS ALLOWED ON THIS PROPERTY. To my further surprise, I learned the Flamingo was where FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover spent his winter vacations.

It was here I learned the importance of attitudes. I met the grandson of the wealthy jeweler Cartier. My friendly greetings when he rode my elevator developed into a friendship. One day he invited me to go with him to the race track. When we arrived at Hialeah track, the ticket agent re-

fused to sell him two tickets, because I was black. I had to go to the colored entrance but our friendship grew.

While a student at Tuskegee University, I received word I had been drafted. My six-month term of duty was to have ended on January 7, 1940, but because the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, my military service was extended, and I served from July 1941 to September 1945. The status of second class citizenship really impacted my life when, after shedding my U.S. military uniform, I no longer had the same rights as my white brothers. However, I never became bitter, and was proud that I had faithfully served my country, which is still the greatest. I have spent my life making friends of all races, and discovered it's good. Try it, you may like it!

I proudly end my notes with a poem written by my 9-year-old God-Grandson, Elijah Cho-Sing Au. His parents are dear friends. Since Eli and I have January birthdays, one week apart, it has become tradition for us to celebrate our birthdays together. Eli wrote and read this poem for me at our joint birthday celebration.



Robert Simon with Eli and Oscar

**The Words that Swept**

**Away the Ocean of Horrible Laws**

**Martin Luther King has taught me many things.**

**If it weren't for his words there are many things I probably wouldn't know:**

**The friends that link around me forever.**

**No, not just Caucasian but African-American, Latino, Asian and Indian.**

**Friends that I probably wouldn't know, if it weren't for his words.**

**No, not just his words' encouragement, but the power within them.**

**Yes, the power that gave me the permit, yes, the one that rings in me forever,**

**Like an endless love, the one that brings me my loved ones, that brings me my loved knowledge and loved things,**

**Like a double rainbow, that I would not have had without his words,**

**The words that swept away the ocean of horrible laws of segregation.**

**No, not just his words' encouragement, but the power within them.**

**The power that swept away the ocean of**

**What can I say? Martin has taught me love, peace,**

**and he thought that all races are created equal.**

**He has given me friends, the friendship of love,**

**but most of all, love, the greatest gift I will ever have, but not just for me,**

**for the world.**

My friends, I leave you with this request: please keep the *Oldtimers' Grapevine* in your prayers. Blessings, as we joyfully anticipate celebrating Spring!

**Love,  
Oscar**



## From The Editor's Pen



Dear Readers,

It is a pleasure to greet you as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of continuous quarterly publication of the *Oldtimers' Grapevine*! The dedication of founder Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, and then Oscar Haynes and his family, to this instrument of communication and connection are truly an inspiration to those of us who work in development and production of the newsletter today. We are delighted to welcome another fine churchwoman to our staff of contributing writers: Jimmy Mohler, a member of Community Christian Church in Kansas City, whose distinguished career in public accounting is enhanced by a steadfast commitment to volunteer service in the U.S. and abroad.

I am obliged to share a bit of information on newsletter logistics. A number of you have reported to me that you have not received the October-December issue of *OTG*. (This is especially disappointing because we really are pleased with that issue!) At this point, we do not know if the copies are making their way through bulk mail purgatory somewhere, or have been lost. However, you will be able to view it on the National City Christian Church website at [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org). Many thanks to Colleen Walsh and NCCC pastor Dr. Stephen Gentle.

As the economy takes its toll on small businesses, there have been changes in the companies employed to print and mail the *OTG*. Needless to say, it is a priority now to seek information about our options from the postal service and local printing companies, so that future issues can be delivered in a timely manner, within our limited budget. If we find that bulk, nonprofit mailing is too unreliable under current operating constraints of USPS, we may need to call upon readers more regularly for donations that make it possible to print and mail the newsletter. As always, we are so grateful to both frequent and occasional contributors to *OTG's* operating fund.

With mixed emotions I share with our readers the death of devoted board member Harvey R. Thomas, husband of board vice president Sybel A. Thomas. The outstanding church and civic leadership of Elder Thomas will appear in the April -- June issue of the *OTG*. Please pray for the family and Park Manor Christian Church, the Community of Faith he served for 55 years.

Many of you know that my son Tyrone has recently had major surgery, and I am happy to report that he is doing well. Thank you for your prayers during his operation and continuing recovery.

Blessings and Peace,

Joyce I. Knox

## Jimmy Mohler Joins OTG Staff

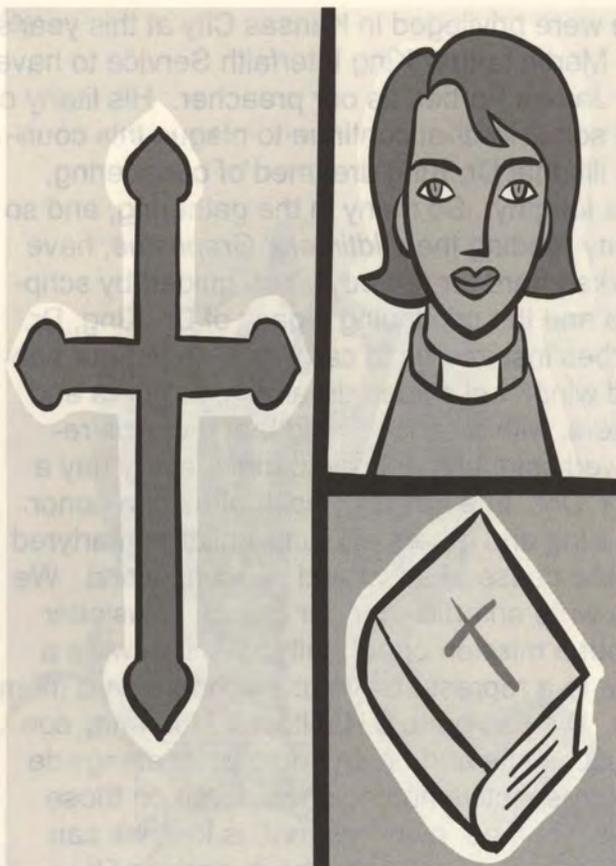


**Jimmy Mohler** came to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the age of 12 at the invitation of a friend. Five decades later, she is still grateful. She has served as Chair of the Week of Compassion Committee. The Committee is the oversight group for the worldwide disaster response, relief and development fund for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, which channels resources and support to the humanitarian needs of suffering people around the world. In her work with Week of Compassion, she started writing Compassion Corner, and we are happy to welcome her Compassion Corner to OTG.

Jimmy has also served as a Licensed Minister in the Greater Kansas City Region. She served in the General Church on new congregation establishment and on the National City Christian Church Foundation board. Humanitarian projects have taken her to India, Hungary, and Haiti with Habitat for Humanity and

the United Methodist Committee on Relief, as well as numerous domestic mission trips.

Jimmy has traveled the world in professional and volunteer capacities. After a 25-year career in bank supervision and public accounting, she for ten years served as intermittent advisor on economic development projects in Bosnia and other Balkan nations, and in Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Namibia, the Philippines, Argentina and Uruguay. These projects were under contracts with the U.S. Agency for International Development and with the U.S. Treasury. She was inducted in 2005 into Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for International Scholars.



**Compassion Corner  
Remember, Celebrate, Act**

*by Jimmy Mohler*

Greetings, Beloved OTG readers! First a word of personal privilege - how pleased I am to be invited to join the OTG team. Thank you. It is providential that I write my first Compassion Corner column for OTG on the day our nation celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Most of us OTG readers were privileged and challenged as we witnessed the tragedy and triumph of Dr. King's life as it was playing out. King biographer Taylor Branch titled his recent program: "Remember, Celebrate, Act: A Day On, Not a Day Off." Branch and others have challenged us to make the celebration a day of service, a day of remembering Dr. King by LIVING his dream.

We were privileged in Kansas City at this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Interfaith Service to have Dr. James Forbes as our preacher. His litany of the social ills that continue to plague this country, ills that Dr. King dreamed of conquering, was lengthy. So many in the gathering, and so many reading the *Oldtimers' Grapevine*, have worked hard for remedy. Yet, guided by scripture and the continuing legacy of Dr. King, Dr. Forbes inspired us to carry on -- to get our second wind. Let's keep dreaming, brothers and sisters, with a second wind that gives us renewed spirit and energy to make every day a DAY ON. In every day, each of us can honor Dr. King and others of God's children martyred for the cause of a just and peaceful world. We can write an article for our church newsletter about a mission opportunity. We can write a note to a representative or a school board member. We can go to a Habitat for Humanity construction site and brush some paint alongside the prospective homeowner. Even on those days when our own "reserve" is low, we can write a note or call one who is working Dr. King's dream of compassion and love to say, "GO! GO! GO!"

**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE  
20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*by Ernest Newborn*

The pen is mightier than the sword" is a metonymic adage coined by English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1859. It is fitting to reflect on this truism as we observe the 20th year of the newsletter. This concept surely was a motivating force impelling the Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, Sr. and others (some named in this issue) who gave impetus to the publication's inception and ongoing success.

In 1978, Fox was serving as assistant to the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In September of that year I became administrative director of the Disciples' Reconciliation Ministry. The 1969 General Assembly mandated the establishment of a Church-wide effort designed to work for justice and peace and to combat the root causes of racism and poverty in the United States and Canada.

Since its inception, the *Oldtimers' Grapevine* has been a reliable source of information and inspiration. It has effectively advanced the Church's essential message and ministry. As one who had the opportunity to serve as Board Chair for ten years, I wish to express sincerest gratitude for that privilege. I wish to join others in expressing gratitude to Oscar Haynes and Joyce Knox for their excellence as editors. With God's blessings and the continuing support of readers like YOU, I believe that the newsletter's best days are ahead trust in the might of the pen!



## THE POET'S CORNER

### Cherisna

Cherisna, Cherisna, sounds like music  
blowing in the wind,  
like a song being sung from deep within.

Cherisna, Cherisna,  
in her heart she sows -  
seeds of care, seeds of joy,  
seeds of faith  
and blessings.

Adorned with smiles beneath her crown,  
nary 'tis shown a scowl or frown.

With a light and a twinkle  
in her dark shiny eyes;

An air of enthusiasm, she speaks,  
she sighs.

Expressions of interest seen and heard,  
learning shown in her sharing,  
uttered in her words.

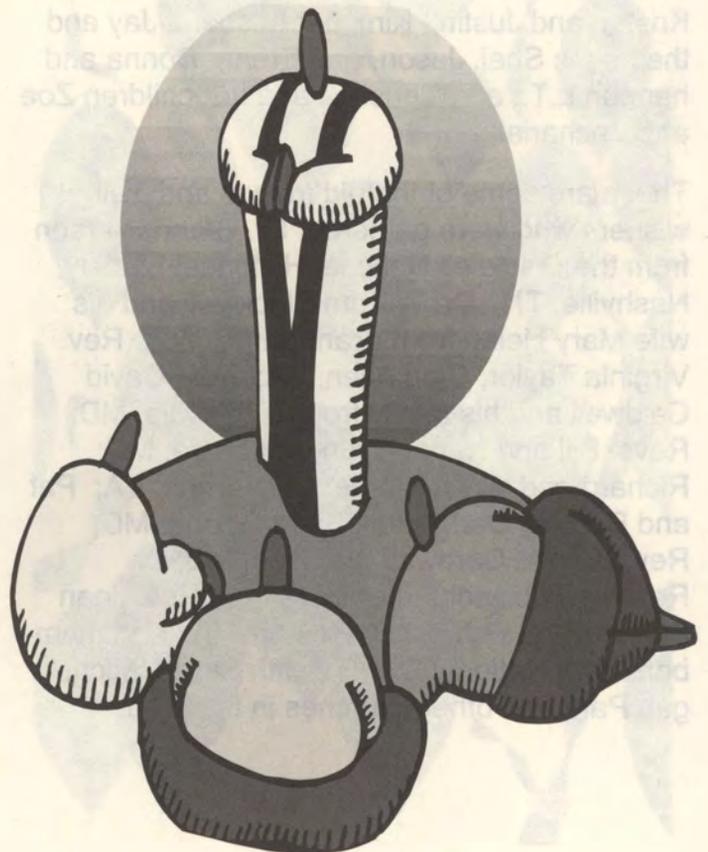
Cherisna, Cherisna,  
witness and service in your bright presence  
seen and voiced.

Cherisna, Cherisna,  
your blessed vision of choice.

May Reed  
Written Feb. 3, 2011

*Cherisna is about a sweet, young woman whose parents are of Haitian descent. Cherisna was born in America. She shares her gifts with the New Covenant Christian Church in Nashville, TN., Dr. Judy D. Cummings, Pastor. This lilting poem/song describes her personality, to me. Cherisna participates in the life and work of the congregation as she receives leadership training through the many church events. The Lord's church could be ever more richly blessed if more individuals chose to labor in service/witness as does our Cherisna Jean-Marie.*

May



## Oscar Does It Again With Aplomb and Style

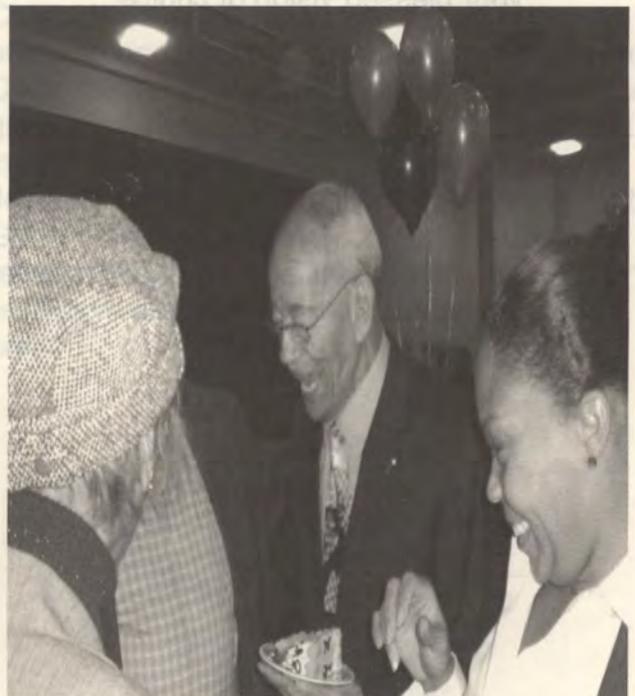
by *Mary Anne Williams*

Is there any better way to spend a dark, dreary Saturday afternoon, a sunny Saturday afternoon, or any day, for that matter, than to be a guest at a birthday party for Oscar Haynes as he marked his 95th year on January 15th?

The atmosphere in Scott Hall at National City Christian Church in Washington, DC was alive with well-wishers as they greeted Oscar and Rev. Joan. With his usual wide smile and familiar laugh, Oscar in turn greeted old friends, new friends, family members, and acquaintances.

Words cannot express the joy Oscar felt as his eldest daughter, Toni, her daughter Danielle, and his three great-grandchildren arrived after a drive from Texas to join in the festivities. The other children were there in large numbers: Oscar II with his wife Robin and their children Kristen and Justin; Kim, her husband Jay and their sons Shei, Jason, and Brent; Donna and her son L.T., and Christina and her children Zoe and Zachariah.

These are some of the old friends and well-wishers who were gathered: Dr. Glenn Carson from the Disciples National Historical Society, Nashville, TN; Dr. William Blackwell and his wife Mary Helen from Brandywine, WV; Rev. Virginia Taylor, Glen Allen, VA; Rev. David Caldwell and his family from Lutherville, MD; Revs. Bill and Narka Ryan, Baltimore, MD; Richard and Violet Bierce, Mt. Vernon, VA; Pat and Dorothy Daugherty, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. Brenda Cardwell, Suitland, MD; Dr. Rosetta Robinson; members from Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes's church in Reston, VA; and members from National City, Twelfth Street, Michigan Park and other churches in the area.



## *Oscar's birthday cont'd*

Following a delicious lunch of succulent chicken, red potatoes, and string beans —after singing “Happy Birthday” to Oscar and cutting the cake — guests came forward and shared stories of their experiences with Oscar over many years. The military stories covered Oscar’s military service during World War II and the time he spent in the India Theater as a journalist. Others relayed stories of their experiences when he was with Christian Brothers’ Wine and Beverage Company.

The largest number to share stories of courage and brotherly love were those who knew Oscar as a Disciple of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for some seventy years. He has served on all three levels of the church: General, Regional, and Local, and is a Diplomat of the National City Christian Church Foundation, the Foundation’s highest honor. In all manifestations, he set precedents by becoming the first African American to hold the positions.

Rev. Joan, Oscar’s lovely wife, was pleased because Oscar was pleased!

Well, Oscar! You’ll just have to do it again next year on your 96th! Many Happy Returns!

*Mary Anne Williams is a longtime member and an Elder at Twelfth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), In Washington, DC.*



*Oscar, Zolie (Co-worker of HealthVine editor), Jay (Oscar’s son-n-law and husband of Kim – HealthVine editor)*



## DISCIPLES ROUND-UP

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – “Tell It!” is the theme for the 2011 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The General Assembly will be held in Nashville, TN, Saturday, July 9 – Wednesday July 13, 2011. Discounts for the assembly’s registration and housing will be available until April 1, 2011.

At the General Board’s 2011 meeting, they voted to recommend to the General Assembly that Reverend Dr. Sharon Watkins (our present General Minister and President and the first woman to serve in that capacity) serve another six year term. Regina Morton, chair of the Review/Search and Call committee said, “Sharon Watkins has done an excellent job representing the Disciples and she has made us known around the world with her prophetic voice and pastoral presence.” Dr. Watkins accepted the Board’s recommendation with thanks for their support. The final vote will take place at the General Assembly.

**ALPHARETTA, GA** -- Reverend Dr. Cynthia Hale, pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Decatur, GA and North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, GA hosted the “Let’s Move!” initiative which was launched by First Lady Michelle Obama. Mrs. Obama spoke to parents and members of the community at this first anniversary program of “Let’s Move!”, an initiative dedicated to solving the problem of childhood obesity within the next generation.

Disciples are additionally involved in programs to help reduce obesity in children. The theme for Disciples Christian Family Week, observed in the United States in May and in Canada in October, is based on scripture in I Corinthians 3: 16 & 17 which tells us that our bodies are temples to be cared for and respected.



## READERS' COMMENTS

OTG Staff,

Thank you for your special ministry!

Rev. Eugene & Mrs. Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO

Dear Doris,

So grateful to you for the service you are giving for the publication of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*. May God bless you with a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Love, Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS

## The Oldtimers' HEALTHVINE

### ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Modern technology has completely changed the way our health care system operates. One very important aspect of health care is charting of medical information. Up until now, all medical charting has been performed with the use of pen and paper. We now have Electronic Health Records-EHR. With EHR the work flow is more efficient in terms of time management, practice management, and cost. EHR helps organize and standardize patient medical records. It also makes it easier and faster to retrieve patient data from any computer around the globe. EHR also reduces the error margin associated with the filing of paper records.

I am personally a member of a health plan that does have EHR. I am also an employee of this same company, so I see both aspects, and I absolutely LOVE EHR. I find EHR very convenient to have. I can set up and cancel appointments, email all of my physicians with any questions or concerns, and I can view my test results within a few days after my blood work is drawn. I do remember how frustrating life was before EHR. I am very grateful for Electronic Health Records. Just hope the system never crashes.

*Kim Atwater is a Registered Nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Kensington, MD.*



## OVERHEARD

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



**SWANTON, MO** — The life of Darla Su “Suzi” (Beard) Cummins, 75, of Swanton, was celebrated at a memorial service on February 25, 2011, at Bethany College, Bethany, WV. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Dr. D. Duane Cummins; her son, Stephen Cummins, St. George, UT; her daughters, Christi Sue Leslie, Great Falls, VA and Caroline Renee Burnham, Atlanta, GA; fourteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Born Sept. 26, 1935, in Oklahoma City, Okla., she was the daughter of the late B. Beard and Christina (Sanders) Beard. She was also preceded in death by siblings Bob, Gwynn, Corrine and J.B.

Suzi graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Education from Phillips University in 1957. Her professional activities included serving as women’s retreat lecturer for the Christian Church (speaking in 21 of 35 of church regions), workshop leader, book reviewer, church school educator for 48 years, Salvation Army Board, Woman’s Club of Wheeling, Auxiliary Group of Ohio Valley Medical Center, and First Lady of Bethany College in 1988-2002 while her

husband Duane was President. She published *Speeding at 55*, *Parenting with Suzi*, *My Mother’s Hands*, and *Teaching Teachers to Teach*.

Her husband Duane writes, “Our long journey together has come to an end. It began in September 1953 when we met as Phillips freshmen in the first hour of the first class at the opening of school that fall, and ended on Jan. 17 in the hospital at Oakland. Liver cancer took her life. The journey encompassed 57 years, 53 of those shared in a wonderful marriage. Suzi possessed rare qualities—abiding thoughtfulness, a deeply compassionate Christian spirit, a generous heart, a sunny personality, playfulness of character, and good humor, and she was a source of delight to all who knew her. One of her favorite quotes: No matter what—God wants us to be happy. He doesn’t want us to be sad. Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn’t we?”

Her life was defined by love, powered by love, the highest image of love. When you think of Suzi, you think of love. She had a greater ability to love than any person I have ever known, and she shared that love with unrestrained generosity. Spiritual joy came to her through loving. All of her correspondence ended with URLVD (you are loved). It is said that to abide in love is to abide in God.”

Suzi is especially remembered at Bethany for her loving outreach to students in need. The family asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Cummins Scholarship Fund established in her name while she served at Bethany (Bethany College, Bethany, WV 26032).

## BELLS TOLL *cont'd*



**SOLON, OH**—Mary Elizabeth Harris Wilson was born on September 24, 1924 in Bluefield, VA and departed this life on January 29, 2011 in Solon, Ohio. Mary E., as she was known by close friends and relatives, accepted Christ at an early age and lived the lessons of Christ through being humble and obedient to the Word.

While attending Bluefield State College, Mary E. maintained excellent grades and became the Homecoming Queen in her senior year in 1946, when someone secretly entered her into the pageant. She also taught a course before earning her Bachelor's degree in Business with a minor in English. An inspirational commencement address by Dr. William H. Gray, then president of Florida A & M in Tallahassee, led her to work in Florida. She honored her promise to Vernon A. Wilson, the love of her life, that after working a few years, she would marry. They were wed in June, 1948. After Vernon completed his second year of law school at the University of Chicago, he returned to active duty in the United States Army. Mary E. was a dutiful officer's wife and mother to four children. When the family lived in Germany, Mary E. learned German and began lifelong friendships

with German women and other military wives. The family eventually settled in Washington, DC, and she began attending Twelfth Street Christian Church in 1953, at the invitation of lifetime friend Sarah Hunter. Mrs. Wilson's life is greatly identified with her beloved church. She served as Church Clerk for over 25 years, until her eyesight became poor, and was named Church Clerk Emeritus. She was humbled by being asked to serve as Elder. On many occasions, the "three amigos" would serve communion to sick and shut-in members. She also held office in the Christian Women's Fellowship and with the Christian Church – Capital Area (CCCA). Mrs. Wilson was active in community and civic organizations, including the Woodridge Civic Association, the PTA, the March of Dimes, Bluefield State Alumni Association, and the Garden Club.

In the life of Mary E., the simple things meant the most, along with her fierce belief in fairness and equality. Mary E. believed in treating others as you wish to be treated, that life was about service to others, and that excellence in all things was an expectation of the Most High God. Though a humble person who could make things happen in the background, she would speak up for what she believed. She was known for her fast thinking and quick wit, had a keen sense of humor and loved to laugh.

Mary E. has gone home to join her beloved husband, Major Vernon A. Wilson, her son John Frederick, and her brothers and sisters. She is survived by three daughters, Donna M. Bovell, Brenda J. Gober, and Gretchen W. Liggins (Derrick), and eight grandchildren. She also leaves twelve great-grandchildren and countless others to whom she was "Mom" to cherish her memory and to carry on her legacy of Christian service to mankind.

## BELLS TOLL *cont'd*



**MANHATTAN, KS** -- Reverend Barbara A. Allen was born October 14, 1944, in Batesville, Indiana, the daughter of a Lutheran minister, the Reverend Roswell Ehme, and Else Marie (Andersen) Aden. After graduating from high school in Medford, Wisconsin, she enrolled at Carthage College, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Music.

At a Lutheran church in Lockport, New York, she served as the church organist and choir-master, before enrolling in seminary at the Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT where she received a Master of Arts in Religion degree and met her husband, Paul Allen. After their wedding, Barbara and Paul moved to Scarsdale, NY to serve in a Baptist church. When Paul was called to serve as the pastor of the Westview Christian Church in Wilson, NC, Barbara was the organist there and also served as the Chaplain at Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College). During this time, Barbara was ordained in 1980 and their son Paul IV was born.

In 1985, Paul was called to minister to the South Central Region in Wichita, KS, and Barbara became the pastor at Martinson Avenue Christian Church. While serving this church for ten years, she also served two terms on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of

Christ) and one term on the Administrative Committee. Barbara was also very active in the Regional Board of the Christian Church in Kansas, and served as Moderator of the Region. She also worked part-time for Hospice In 1993, she and Paul adopted their son, Carlos, from Honduras. Carlos lives in Wichita with his wife Angelica and their two children.

In 1994, Paul passed away. This was a difficult time for the family, but their love for the Lord and their love for each other sustained them. Barbara was called to serve as the North East Area Minister for the Mid-America Region, based in Columbia, MO. She served in this capacity for seven years until her health failed and she joined her son Paul IV, his wife Patti, and their daughter Abby in Farmville, NC. There she served as an Elder of First Christian Church and a Hospice volunteer. In 2010, she moved to Manhattan, KS when Paul IV became the senior minister of the First Christian Church. Here Barbara sang in the Chancel Choir, rang with the Bell Choir, served as a Worship Leader, helped with mid-week Bible studies, and was a member of the Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry Team.

Along with her sons, survivors include her mother, Else Marie Aden of Rockford, IL; her brother, the Reverend Ross Aden and his wife Sandra of Roscoe, IL; her sister Cheryl Aden and her husband Larry Rushing of New York, NY; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on February 9, 2011 at the First Christian Church in Manhattan with Regional Minister Dr. Paxton Jones and Reverend Christy Dew officiating. Services and burial will be held at a later date in Farmville, NC. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Christian Church, Manhattan, KS.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

Rev. Arzolla Phillips, Knoxville, TN; Rev. Eugene & Mrs. Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Shannon Norris, Hagerstown, MD; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Dr. Claude & Mrs. Sherley Walker, Dallas, TX; Mr. Barry & Mrs. Patti Robinson, Oro Valley, AZ; Ms. Barbara I. Bowens, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Ken & Mrs. Jimmy Mohler, Kansas City, MO; Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, St. Louis, MO; Miss Bess R. Terry, New York, NY; Dr. Ernest & Dr. Janice Newborn, Claremont CA; Christian Church Foundation, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Thomas J. Liggett, Claremont, CA; Ms. Jacqueline Dyer, St. Louis, MO; Mr. William B. & Mrs. Gwendolyn C. Allen, Parkersburg, WV; Mrs. Mildred Chaney, Cincinnati, OH.

Dr. William K. Fox, Founding Editor

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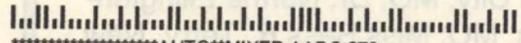
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# *The Oldtimers'*

# GRAPEVINE

# The Oldtimers'

## GRAPEVINE

April—June '11

Volume 20, Issue 2

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV)



Harvey R. Thomas, Sr.

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### Remembering Harvey R. Thomas, Oldtimers' Grapevine Board Member

by Joyce I. Knox and Oscar Haynes

It is with deep regret that we announce to our readers the passing of our esteemed Board member Harvey R. Thomas. He was always eager to pitch story suggestions or present ideas that would enhance the quality of our newsletter and he could lighten up a meeting with his magnetic sense of humor, or spin a yarn, for which he was famous. He will be greatly missed!

After Harvey graduated from high school, he volunteered to serve his country during World War II in the United States Army, where he served with courage and valor. He was wounded while serving in Germany, and received the Purple Heart. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, a tremendous feat considering the racial climate of the day. Following his discharge from the Army, Harvey worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier and was involved in the recording industry. Years earlier, Harvey had stated in his high school yearbook that he wanted to pursue a career with the civil service. He began his career with the Internal Revenue Service as a Revenue Officer. (Now we know there are some excellent people working for the IRS!!) Before retiring in 1983, he served in numerous capacities as he moved up the civil service ranks and became the District and Regional Equal Employment Opportunity Officer.

*Harvey Thomas cont'd.*

While attending classes in accounting and business administration at Roosevelt University, Harvey met the lovely Sybel A. Clark at the Skyloft Drama Club. They fell in love and married in August, 1948. Harvey and Sybel worked together beautifully and thereafter.

*Dear Readers, as this newsletter goes to print, we have just learned of the passing of Harvey's dear wife Sybel. In the next issue, we will share more information about her life and work.*

After joining Park Manor Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Chicago, IL, Harvey and Sybel began their spiritual odyssey in all three manifestations of the Church. He and Sybel started and directed a drama club at Park Manor; he served as Elder and taught Sunday school; he was 2nd Vice Moderator of the Illinois/Wisconsin Region; Treasurer of the National Convocation; President of the Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF) at Park Manor and the International CMF and Trustee of Greenwood Cemetery in Nashville, TN, among numerous other positions. Harvey touched the lives of practically every Seminary student of Park Manor, keeping them out of trouble by giving them expert help in dealing with the IRS. He was extremely firm, considered harsh by some, as he taught them to act in their own best interests.

Harvey and Sybel traveled widely and they were the first couple to be presented the "Faithful Servant" award by the Disciples of Christ. The award stated that they were "Ambassadors for Peace" after having traveled to more than 40 countries spreading the Word of Christ.

Harvey loved children. He and Sybel have two fine sons, Harvey, Jr. and Craig, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. His mentoring and nourishing of young minds is legendary. He never met a child he did not love, care for and offer gems of encouragement.

Harvey's outgoing personality, his sense of humor, his love for family and his fellowman,

especially the children, made him one of those persons we consider Christ-centered and a role model for all to emulate.

Harvey, the *Oldtimers' Grapevine* newsletter staff will always miss your pearls of wisdom and your sage advice!!



## A Reason to Celebrate: 185 Years “Young!”

by Betsy Watson, with photos by Jane Zebendon



On the corner of Kirkwood Avenue and Washington Street, in Bloomington, Indiana, stands a historical building, neo-Gothic in architecture, called First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Remarkable in many ways, First Christian Church (FCC) is celebrating a milestone event this spring: its 185th birthday! Many who have a connection with FCC, through membership, friendship, or benevolence, were on hand Sunday, May 15th at 10:30 a.m. for the commemorative worship service. Returning to preach at this special service was the Reverend Ronald L. Parker, who served as FCC's Senior Minister for 16 years (1984-2000). His message compared childhood memories of a rock eventually split by a growing tree to the way love in time splits open hard places of fear and hate. FCC Pastors Mark Calvert-Rosenberger and Helen Hempfling Enari helped lead the service, with special music by soprano Allison Enari and guest organist Joshua Brodbeck. At a festive 185th Birthday reception immediately after the service, members greeted Rev. Parker and other longtime and new friends.

The first members of the church met in private homes. The congregation's first structure was a log building erected in 1826 on the site of the present day Campbell House, which is still owned by FCC and now serves as the offices of Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. In 1841, a permanent church building was built on

the same site. In 1884, the trustees purchased the adjacent corner lot and a red brick church was dedicated in 1885. At that time, the church was named the Kirkwood Avenue Christian Church. The previous church building was demolished and the current Campbell House structure was built, using much of the material from the old church.

On New Year's Eve 1916, the Kirkwood Avenue Christian Church burned to the ground. The board met the next day to plan a replacement. In 1919, a dedicatory service was held for the newly named First Christian Church of Bloomington. Years later, in 1968, Disciples of Christ became part of the name when the denomination was formed. Many improvements, rearrangement, and renovations have occurred in the church building over the years, including the magnificent Tree of Life stained glass window in the chancel, the gradual enlargement of the organ to the present instrument of 2,178 pipes, and the 1991 renovation that won an architectural preservation award.

185 years later, FCC still remains a vibrant church, committed to serving the less fortunate in our community. The church helped start, and for many years housed, Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. Their partnership endures to this day. In recent years, FCC was home to part of the Shalom Center services for people experiencing homelessness and poverty, until Shalom acquired their own facility on South Walnut Street. Five years ago, FCC launched "The Gathering Place Breakfast," a ministry in which church volunteers prepare and serve hot and continental breakfasts on Sunday mornings from 7:30-9:30 a.m. to anyone who stops by. The church also participates in the Inter-Faith Winter Shelter two nights a week from November through March, offering homeless persons a warm, safe place to spend the night.

## *A Reason to Celebrate cont'd*

A church congregation residing on the same corner in Bloomington, Indiana for 185 years strong—continuously serving the community and welcoming all into their midst—this is a remarkable accomplishment!



Pastors Mark Calvert-Rosenberger, Ron Parker and Helen Enari



Members Colyn Crowder, Mary Jane Bledsoe



Betsy Watson and Carol Hudson

*Authors Betsy Watson and Jane Zebendon are lay leaders at First Christian Church.*

## **Compassion Corner Pray, Pay, Stay**

*by Jimmy Mohler*

What a season for spring storms! Even areas not normally impacted by tornadoes, like Virginia and Massachusetts have had twisters touching down. With radar and satellite technology we can view funnel clouds forming while on the internet or watching TV. I just happened to tune in the Weather Channel when the tornado was bearing down on Tuscaloosa. There was a grim look on the face of the weather professional, who declared that the “cloud” visible on the radar was debris from the ground rising to a level of 8,000 feet. As God’s children, we weep with those who weep. And we do more. Faith communities throughout the nation and other nations have responded with offers to help the tornado ravaged areas. Leaders of our humanitarian organizations immediately provided emergency funds that were “at the ready” because you and others gave. Those leaders ask that we PRAY for all those impacted, be they victims or rescuers or re-builders. It is something that every one of us can do. Where possible, they ask that we PAY, giving what dollars we can to the work of Week of Compassion or its partners for emergency response. And in the early days or weeks following the tragedy, we are asked to STAY. Drop-in volunteers at a disaster site can be a danger to themselves and others. It’s difficult for us to think about leaders asking people to stay away, but the appeals are borne of years of experience in dealing with disasters. Our church leaders are working within these communities to establish a safe and efficient environment to which many of us can travel to help. Where needs are greatest, they establish Mission Stations near the disaster site that are equipped to lodge work teams. Long after the storms are off the front page of the newspapers, disciples of the Christ are there to rebuild. Some leaders are already saying COME NOW! Can you join in? Ask at your church or regional office. Thanks OTG readers!

## WOMAN-TO-WOMAN WORLDWIDE

### 2010 IN TURKEY

by Mary D. Jackson



Betty Frank, CCDOC Missionary, Inc., our Turkey guide, and Bishop

The Christian Church Disciples of Christ (CCDOC) Women to Women Worldwide 2010 trip to Turkey took place in October 2010. Women from the various regions of CCDOC had been chosen to go, and I was representing the Capital Area. Fifteen ladies gathered in New York on October 12 for a two-day orientation. When we arrived in Istanbul, Turkey, we were greeted by Betty Frank, our Global Ministries Representative, and Inci Turkoglu, our wonderful tour guide. I am now in a country that is filled with biblical history. I will meet people and learn some of their culture and taste many different foods.

We begin our exploration of Turkey in Istanbul. The Blue Mosque is one of the many impressive buildings. The blues on the walls and ceiling are a beautiful blend with the red carpet. This is an active mosque and must be empty in time to clean it for noon prayers. The Hagia Sophia church, which means "Holy Wisdom", once was a basilica, later a mosque, now a museum. It is famous in particular for its massive dome. The tiles in Sophia church came from the famous city of Iznik.

In Irmak we visited the American High School. The school was started in 1965 by a Global Ministries Missionary and later turned over to a group known as SERV. Our own Betty Frank worked in this school as a librarian. Betty introduced the American visitors to the staff and

students. We were told some facts about the school by the students. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed with the staff. The school motto: "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve." That afternoon we visited Marmara University and met with professors and students. One of the young ladies is studying Islamic law and she will be an Iman for woman. Two young ladies shared very different views on wearing the scarf. The Muslim ladies said they wear their scarf as a sign of rebellion against the government's ban on wearing scarves in public. This rebellion will limit them in getting government jobs.

Kamir Project Center in Mardin counsels, trains, and helps women who are victims of domestic abuse and subject to "honor-killings". Some of the ladies shared their heart-wrenching stories. The ladies at Kamir make handicrafts to sell to support themselves and the center. The only way we could support them was by buying the crafts, which we did joyfully.



Jean Muir from MT, Mary, Linda Stiles from PA

The home of the Ancient Surian Church, Mor Gabriel Monastery in Gaziantep, is the most important monastery for the worldwide Syrian Orthodox Church, from America to Australia. The buildings and the hand carvings you see upon entering the grounds are a wonder to behold. Those who live there work very hard to maintain the natural beauty all around. We were invited to the noon prayer time. It was a holy time for me. We were allowed to have noon prayers with the males.

## Women to Women cont'd

The nuns had noon prayers in another area. Later the nuns served us lunch. The lunch was made from food that they grow on the grounds. Our gift to the nuns was money to buy a refrigerator and some QA handbags made in the Congo.

Our biblical sites included St. John's Basilica in Selcuk. It was very peaceful in the middle of the excavated ruins. One memory that stays with me was seeing in the ruins the baptismal font in the shape of a cross. Ephesus is a 5,000 year old city, a city from which Paul and John may have both walked. I went into a library that had been restored, walked paths where horse-drawn carts had pulled Anthony and Cleopatra, and sat in an amphitheater that would hold 23,000 persons. Ephesus was a busy port city until the harbor filled in with silt and eventually closed down the city. We visited a house built by John for Mary, the mother of Jesus, after Jesus' death.

Later travels took us to visit the Istanbul Interparish Migrant Program (IIMP). This program serves the most marginalized, stranded and vulnerable asylum seekers, refugees and migrant women and children. Those who work in IIMP understand this as an effort to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ, as found in Matthew 25:35-36. IIMP is an ecumenical and cooperative network of parishes and church groups founded in 1991. Some of the many services that IIMP offers to the people are: adult education, clothing, medical care, hot meals two days a week, pre-school and a safe environment. Each person from the USA collected children's vitamins to bring to IIMP. We donated money for IIMP to purchase strollers.

The Women-to Women Worldwide -Turkey service project for 2011 is Istanbul Interparish Migrant Program (IIMP). You can find a lot of information on the web about IIMP. Gifts for the Disciples Women's Service Project for 2011 – IIMP may be made payable to "Global Ministries;" indicate that the gift is for WWW Turkey. Mail to: Office for Resource Development, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Global Ministries in earlier years was known as the American Board, and has been in Turkey since 1820, building schools and hospitals. Global Ministries has been working with Muslims in health and education since the founding of the Turkish Republic in the 1920's.

I invite you to go to [www.shutterfly.com](http://www.shutterfly.com) and view my Turkey album.

Women-to-Women Worldwide for 2011 will travel to the Congo in October.



St. John's ruins



Mary and two University Students



Lunch with the Nuns

Mary D. Jackson is a member and an Elder at United Christian Parish in Reston, VA and has been married to William (Bill) Jackson for 57 years.

## THE POET'S CORNER

### Dory, A Troubled Child

#### [A child poem analogy]

The mind, the imagination  
is a wonder to behold.

The mind, the imagination  
can be a fantasy to behold.

The mind, the imagination  
sometimes wearies the troubled soul.

Dory thought himself a dragon

Dory liked to run and play.

Dory had a little wagon

Dory had not much to say.

Dory didn't like the flames  
that flowed out from his nose.

Dory poured water on it

Dory thought he'd make it close.

But Dory couldn't put it out,

however hard he tried,

Until one day he got so mad

he cried, and cried, and cried.

And then he felt and found no flame,

he wondered and replied

**"I had only to use the Water within me  
to stop the flames inside."**

There is a Fountain filled with **LOVE**  
that will drive away life's flames.

A love that quenches anger;

A love that removes pain.

And when we cry out for it,

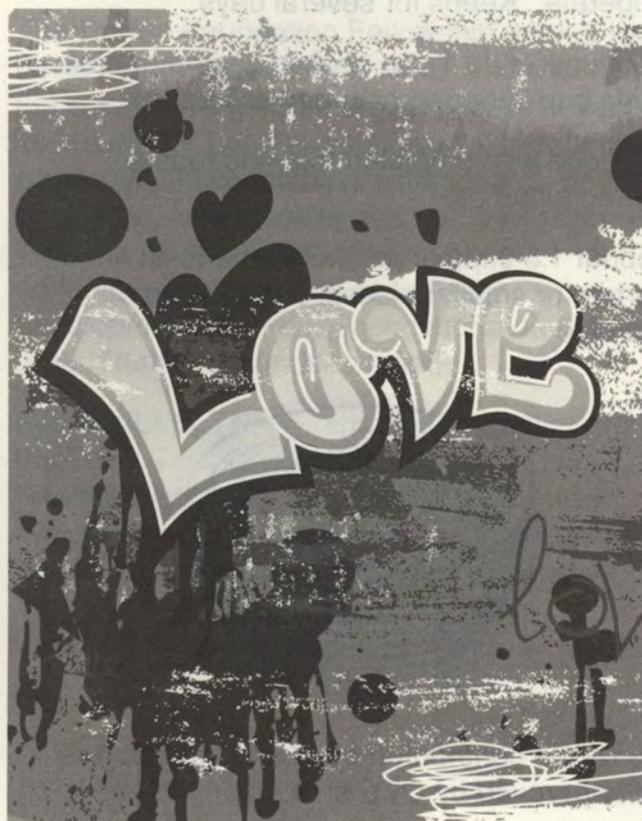
Holy Spirit then 'twill come.

**LOVE** loves us big, and little.

**LOVE** loves us all, not some.

May Reed

Written Mon., May 24, 2011



## The Oldtimers' HEALTHVINE

### ARTICHOKE CHICKEN-RICE SALAD

6 – 8 servings

1 package chicken Rice-a-Roni (regular or low sodium)

2-4 scallions, chopped

1 green pepper, chopped

1 small can sliced black olives

2 jars (6 oz. each) marinated artichoke hearts, drained (save marinade)\*\*

1/3 teaspoon curry powder

1/3 cup mayonnaise

Cook rice according to package directions. Mix marinade from artichokes with mayonnaise and curry. Add to cooked rice. Combine remaining ingredients with rice and refrigerate. Keeps for several days.

Variations: Add 1 cup cooked shrimp or crab or one cup chopped or cubed chicken.

Also good with crumbled feta and toasted slivered almonds.

\*\* about 1.5 cups of artichoke hearts, in quarters or smaller pieces, and 2/3 cup of marinade



*This recipe contributed by Ellen Crowder has been approved by OTG staff.*

## OVERHEARD

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them.

Then something fell out, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Momma, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, he answered, "It's Adam's suit!"



### Ride-On!

On July 3-7, Rev. John Yonker, Rev. Rick Lowery, General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, and Reconciliation Director April Johnson will be among the bike riders carrying on the Reconciliation fundraising tradition initiated by Drs. William K. Fox and Ernest Newborn in 1985. They will ride from Indianapolis, IN to Nashville, TN. *Oldtimers' Grapevine* staff and Board members are pledging financial support for this event. Disciples who would like to join the ride or make pledges are encouraged to contact the Reconciliation Ministry Office at 317-713-2587 or [ismith@disciples.org](mailto:ismith@disciples.org)

## DISCIPLES ROUND-UP

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** -- Julia Brown Karimu had no idea, when growing up in Mississippi, that she would one day be the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Executive for the Division of Overseas Ministry. Nor, when she answered the call of God upon her life, did she think that one day she would share duties with the Executive from the United Church of Christ in Global Ministries. Her work in the Division of Overseas Ministry, headquartered in Indianapolis, has offered her a view of the world that few of us have been privileged to have. With that privilege come certain challenges she has willingly accepted on behalf of the church in ministering to the least, the lost, and the last. She has labored tirelessly on behalf of Christians all over the world, specifically in developing countries, where to be Christian is to be at risk and to face persecution. She says, in a Disciples News Service news release, "I am happy to be part of a church that has a commitment to a ministry of accompaniment with partners around the world." Julia was nominated at the April 2011 Board of Directors meeting of the Division of Overseas Ministries to serve as the next President of that ministry. The nomination will be forwarded to the General Board for election by mail ballot and then the Division of Overseas Ministry Board will do another mail ballot to confirm the General Board's election. She is expected to begin her new duties August 1, 2011.

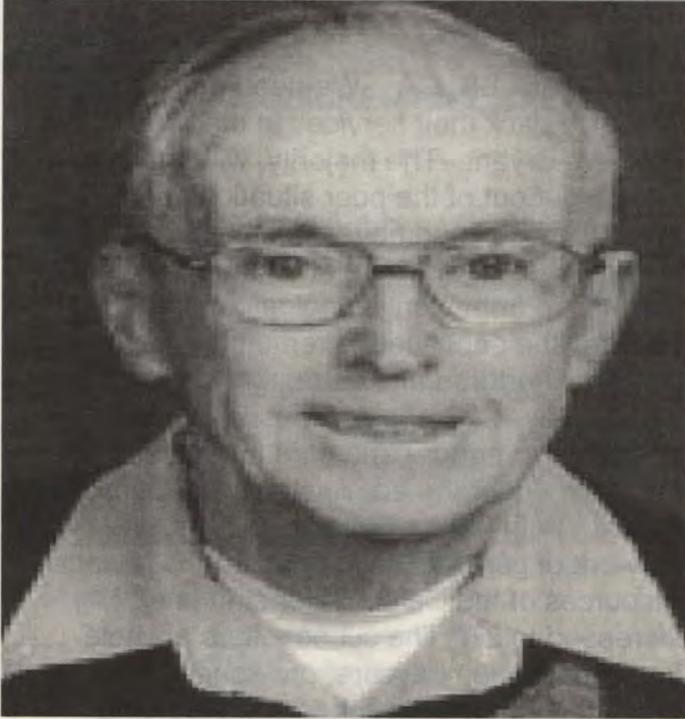
Karimu graduated from Christian Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 1986. She earned a B.S. in History and Political Science from Jackson State University in Jackson, MS and a Teacher's Certificate in English from Cleveland State University in Cleveland Ohio. Prior to her work with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) she taught English, journalism and social studies to junior high school students. She is married to Christian Abdul Karimu and they are the proud parents of 18-year-old twins, Christopher and Kona.

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – We need more people who give back their services to their roots, like Sandra Bryant. The majority, with the help of others, get out of the poor situations and neighborhoods and never look back. Sandra never lost sight of where she came from. After graduating from high school and going on to college, she continued to remember the day care that nurtured and cared for her so wonderfully. All Peoples Christian Center continues to nurture and care for the less fortunate under the administration of Sandra Bryant. With her fundraising abilities, she and a network of contacts have doubled the financial resources of the Center. Her staff has increased to 27. The school offers a whole-family package: daycare, pre-school, gang prevention for middle schoolers, parenting classes, and anger management classes. She understands regulatory challenges faced by nonprofits, such as numerous audits. People like Sandra say, "This is not just my job, it is my calling."

The Durfee Foundation Fellowship funded her three-month sabbatical in 2000, and she says the award was great, but best was what the award did for Los Angeles County, where the community is economically depressed, densely populated, low-income, and gang-infested. With the Durfee Foundation's support, education, the arts, and community development were enhanced in the downtown area. Thanks, Sandra Bryant!

**NASHVILLE, TN** -- Remember to register for the 2011 General Assembly to be held in Nashville from Saturday, July 9 through Wednesday, July 13, 2011. You can register online at [generalassembly@ogmp.disciples.org](mailto:generalassembly@ogmp.disciples.org)

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



BELTON, MO - The Rev. Ian J. McCrae – church leader, social activist and committed family man – died in Belton, Missouri on May 12. He was 87 years old. A native of Toronto, Canada, McCrae dedicated his life to promoting economic and social justice, primarily through 28 years of service with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

During the height of the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, McCrae served as the denomination's Director of Human Rights. He chaired the racial justice working group of the U. S. National Council of Churches. At one time or another, McCrae worked on military draft packets, alternative service, policies on use of lethal force, improving police grievance procedures, meaningful alternatives to incarceration, school desegregation, equal employment, equal housing, legal defense, the Equal Rights Amendment, Brotherhood Week, Martin Luther King Day, reduction of defense spending, and global economic justice.

McCrae was a frequent speaker and writer of articles for Disciples and ecumenical

publications. He authored *Global Economics: Seeking a Christian Ethic, a Workbook for Beginners* in 1993.

McCrae was a graduate of the University of Toronto, the University of Chicago, and Yale University. In 2006, he earned an honorary doctorate from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, where Disciples have their international headquarters, McCrae received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2007 from the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, where he attended seminary. He was the 2009 winner of the Wittkamper Award, the highest honor given by the denomination's Peace Fellowship.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Rice McCrae; five children, Bruce, Doug, Carol, Linda and Maureen; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He will be remembered for his warm and dry wit, his commitment to social and economic justice, his love of family, his respect for people on all sides of an issue or argument, his love of dialogue and conversation -- especially on theological and social issues, his open and questioning mind, and his fairness to all people.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Andrew Christian Church, 13890 W. 127 Street, Olathe, KS 66062 or Global Ministries, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS

St. James Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Somerville, TX; Rev. William C. & Mrs. Mary H. Blackwell, Harrisonburg, VA; Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Shannon Norris, Hagerstown, MD; Ms. Loreatha Jones, Brooklyn, NY; Rev. Pablo & Mrs. Jenean Stone, Black Mountain, NC; Ms. Josie W. Meeks, Washington, DC; Dr. & Mrs. G. Curtis Jones, Jr., Angel Fire, NM; Ms. Laurenda Carter, Silver Spring, MD; Ms. Vera D. Russell, Philadelphia, PA; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm; Dr. Sere S. & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Sr.; Mrs. Daisy R. Chambers, Winston-Salem, NC; Rev. Richard & Mrs. Doris Lauer, McKenzie Bridge, OR; Mr. Roland & Mrs. Kitty Huff, Rutland VT; Ms. Lois Hodrick, Somerville, TX; Ms. Mary L. Wright, Warren, OH; Mr. Michael & Mrs. Suanne Yarbrough, Fraser, CO; Ms. TaShana Robinson, Indianapolis, IN; Ms. Jean Muir, Great Falls, MT; Ms. Ovara O. Miller, Kansas City, MO; Ms. Eliza Husser Cave, Bath, SC; Mrs. Barbara M. Hall, Washington, DC.

**Editor's Note:** *The OTG staff apologizes to those persons who sent monetary contributions and were thanked in the Oct.—Dec. 2010 issue but did not see our acknowledgment. That issue did not reach our readers because of a mailing error at the previous printer. Mrs. Loraine A Pitman, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Doris Daugherty, Washington, DC; Dr. Richard & Rev. Virginia Taylor, Glen Allen, VA; Dr. Sere S. & Mrs. Mary J. Myers, Leawood, KS; Rev. William & Mrs. Mary Blackwell, Brandywine, WV; Mrs. Lorraine F. Stell, Fort Worth, TX; Mr. Tom & Mrs. Gail Killough, Huntsville AL; Mr. Chris & Mrs. Lucy Maier, Ft. Worth, TX; Mr. Robbie & Mrs. Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Mr. Lon Schreiber, Ashburn, VA; Dr. O. & Mrs. G. Curtis Jones, Jr., Angel Fire, NM; Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Cincinnati, OH; Ms. Helen Gray, Arlington, VA; Mr. Wayne & Mrs. Karen Barr, Springfield, VA; Mr. Percy & Mrs. Yvonne Malone, Washington, DC; Rev. Charles Webb, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Arzolla Phillips, Knoxville, TN.*

Dr. William K. Fox, Founding Editor

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# *The Oldtimers'*

# GRAPEVINE

# The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

July-September '11

Volume 20, Issue 3

But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness  
like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5:24 (ESV)

THE OLDTIMERS GRAPEVINE • W.K. FOX, EDITOR/  
MANAGER • RAYMORE, MO



Sybel Thomas

## Remembering Sybel Thomas, OTG's Board Vice President

by Joyce I. Knox

One of the great leaders of our denomination and of the *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* Board, Sybel Thomas departed this earthly realm and entered into peaceful rest with our heavenly Father on June 7, 2011.

In 1998, during the OTG Board presidency of Sere Stacy Myers, she was elected Vice President of the Board of Directors, where she served until her passing. She was involved in all aspects of the newsletter – giving us story ideas and fundraising advice, and just letting the staff know that she was available whenever she was needed.

Sybel was multi-talented, and it was evidenced in everything she did. She was an Elder in her church, Park Manor Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Chicago, IL. She worked with her church's Christian Women's Fellowship, and with love and support from her congregation, she served on the Illinois/Wisconsin Regional Board.

She held many leadership roles in the church and throughout the community over the years. She was a member of the first moderator team at the first General Assembly of the newly restructured Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and the first African American and lay woman to

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*Sybel Thomas cont'd*

serve as vice moderator of the General Church/Assembly. She served as President of the National Convocation from 1992 to 1994. She was president of the World Christian Women's Fellowship. Sybel received a Liberation Award

from the General Church in 1998 for being an effective facilitator for Disciples Women. For more than 15 years Sybel served as a Trustee of the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago. For 40 years she and Harvey invested time and attention in the young people and future leaders through the Divinity House and in other ways. Together they received the National Convocation's Liberation Award.

Sybel and Harvey met at the Skyloft Drama Club in Chicago, and married in August, 1948. This union was the beginning of a lifetime of working together in business and ministry and of traveling together. After having visited more than 40 countries spreading the Word of Christ, they were the first couple to be presented the "Faithful Servant" award by the Disciples of Christ. The award stated they were "Ambassadors of Peace," which described them perfectly. Sybel and Harvey have two sons, Craig and the late Harvey Jr., five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Here are excerpts from an article Sybel wrote for the November -- December 1997 issue of this newsletter. *"I am blessed to be a part of the Christian Church (DOC). Beginning with my local church, Park Manor Christian, I have found such a spiritual bond of love and support to guide me in my Christian journey. I learned much from the Pastors and wise lay Leaders. I received encouragement from the CWF with a strong acclamation from the congregation to get involved in the Illinois Region. ...*

*... I have rubbed shoulders with many dedicated Christian Lay people, Regional Ministers, General Ministers, and Presidents of General Units. There was no sense of hierarchy but one of collegiality. No, I do not say our church is perfect. I have encountered racism, competition, and clashes in all manifestations of the Denomination. But I believe as Paul says, "We press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus," (Philippians 3:14.) ... Thanks to the Oldtimers' Grapevine which keeps us in touch with one another. To God be the Glory!"*

Sybel, *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* newsletter staff will always remember and miss your warm smile and caring manner!



## Lexington Theological Seminary's 17th President Dr. Charisse Gillett



*Dr. Charisse Gillette, President of Lexington Theological Seminary*

In a special meeting, the Lexington Theological Seminary Board of Trustees named Dr. Charisse Gillett the Seminary's 17th president, effective Sept. 1, 2011.

"Dr. Gillett brings vision and energy for leading LTS with its innovative approach for preparing men and women for congregational ministry. She brings a unique combination of experiences with higher education, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and LTS. Her demonstrated leadership abilities, her strategic and creative approach to issues, her commitment to students and congregations, and her effective communication style are all qualities that clearly make Dr. Gillett the right person to lead the Seminary as we move forward," said LTS Board of Trustees member Leslie Geoghegan, who chaired the presidential search committee.

Dr. Gillett has served as Vice President of Administration and Special Projects at LTS since February 2010. Dr. Gillett has more than 20 years of successful administrative experience in higher education, including

service at Transylvania University, Midway College, Robert Morris College and the University of Northern Iowa. She holds a doctorate in education from Northern Illinois University. A former moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), she has been a commissioned minister of the Christian Church in Kentucky since August 2010, and is Associate Minister at East Second Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where her husband, LTS D.Min. alumnus Dr. Donald Gillett II, serves as Senior Pastor. She is also a former LTS trustee and officer of the board.

"I am deeply committed to the church and to the work of the Seminary in shaping students for ministry," Dr. Gillett said. "I am excited about the future of the Seminary, and the students and congregations we will be able to touch in the years to come as our program continues to grow in dynamic ways. We have a wonderful team of faculty and staff who are dedicated to our students and to the church, and I am looking forward to working closely with them and leading the Seminary as we move forward into the next page of our story."

Dr. Gillett's appointment is a historic one in the 146-year history of LTS. She is the first woman and first African-American to lead the Seminary as president.

"Dr. Gillett has an outstanding depth of knowledge and experience about the Seminary," said LTS Board of Trustees president Rev. Gary Kidwell. "LTS has a storied history of shaping people for ministry, and with Dr. Gillett's leadership, we look forward to an exciting future for the Seminary."

*This article is reprinted with permission of Lexington Theological Seminary.*

## Compassion Corner

by Jimmy Mohler

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The quote has become iconic. Many use it. I do too, since I believe it speaks to the heart of compassion. The words are attributed to Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist, 1901-1978.

Examples?

Dr. Ashok Gadgil is a scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. Having immigrated from Mumbai in India, he has a keen sense of the needs in the developing world. He and his team invented a cooking stove that requires 75 percent less wood to operate, tailored specifically to diet and climate in the Sudan. Women in Darfur risk rape and mutilation by rebels as they travel miles to fetch firewood in this arid land. (If the men fetch the firewood, they risk death.)

National Geographic's Mark Jenkins writes about SODIS, the acronym for a Swiss-pioneered water-disinfection program being used all over the world to provide drinking water for some four million people. Retrieve a discarded water bottle. Tear off the label and fill with any water that's not too murky from a creek, standpipe, or puddle. Place the bottle on a piece of metal in full sun. In six hours, the UVA radiation will kill viruses, bacteria, and parasites in the water, making it safe to drink. "It's simple, it's free, and it's effective," says Ibelatha Mhelela, principal of the Ndolela Primary School in Tanzania. In 2006 her school started using SODIS to disinfect its contaminated tap water, placing bottles on the building's corrugated metal roof. The result? Absenteeism due to diarrhea dropped considerably, and examination scores soared. "Before we started SODIS,

only 10 to 15 percent of the children passed the national sixth-grade exams," says Mhelela. "Now 90 to 95 percent of the students pass."

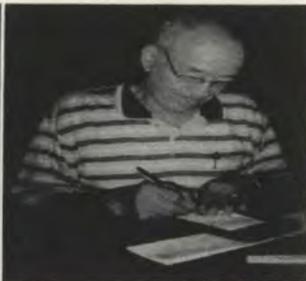
Altruistic alliteration is at work at Grace Disciples of Christ Church in Covington, Louisiana, as two children had the idea of making Cupcakes for Compassion. They wanted to sell the cupcakes "to help the people who lost everything." They also envisioned Paint for Pets – decorating water bowls for dogs. With the help of parents and friends, Christina and Amanda showed up for church with two dozen cupcakes and a few painted pet bowls. They raised \$115, donating their bounty to Week of Compassion. Covington is a community near New Orleans, a community in which many lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. Yet Grace Church has gained a reputation for responding in some way to headline disasters from Kansas to Japan.

For all who put skill and sacrifice into helping God's children in need, whether it is a scientist with a stove or a Swiss research institute with safe water or kiddos and their cupcakes, we give thanks to God. And we have hope for humankind.



## OSCAR'S NOTES

*From the Desk of the  
Contributing Editor*



As the nation celebrated another great Black History event, the official unveiling of the "I Have a Dream" Monument of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the National Mall, my joy also included my day on the Mall on August 28, 1963, when over 200,000 persons gathered on the Mall for a day that was filled with a beautiful, respectful love that I had never experienced before, nor have I experienced since.

I knew of the March earlier through Bayard Rustin, the comparatively forgotten labor leader and civil rights activist who in the late 1950s had become a key adviser to Dr. King. I met Bayard, raised by a Quaker grandmother in West Chester County, PA, during the years I was an active member of The Capital Press Club of Washington, DC. The Capital Press Club was active between the mid-1940s and 1970s. It was started by black journalists who were refused membership in the National Press Club of Washington (this is another interesting story). Bayard Rustin, a multi-talented man, became executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute in 1965. The institute was named in honor of Mr. Randolph, the prominent labor leader, organizer, and dean of the movement, as well as Bayard's longtime mentor. Randolph was a noted fighter for racial and economic equality for black trade unionists. Bayard is credited with being the 1963 march's chief organizer, and was viewed by leaders of the movement as the only civil rights activist capable of leading such an unprecedented march.

This March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom represented a coalition of labor leaders, civil rights organizations, and faith groups calling for the government and society to defend human dignity, especially at a time when that

dignity was under siege. As I watched the ceremonies of the unveiling of the monument progress, my memories of 1963 overcame me, as the strongest words from his speech that day in August burst from my lips, "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last" -- and suddenly I was once again back at the Mall.

Progress was made when voters sent President Barack Obama to the highest office in the nation. Once again, racist forces are trying to take control with the emergence of the "tea party." We have made tremendous progress, but we are quickly moving back to an era where respect for all Americans is dying -- especially with the repeal of legislation designed to help level the playing field. Our legislative branch over the past year certainly does not represent a country founded on the principle of "... one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all."

A little sidebar. In 1964, I attended a conference in Pittsburgh, PA with a friend. At the end of the conference, she had an invitation to breakfast with a Pittsburgh resident. During the conversation about the "I Have a Dream" speech and the march itself, the conversation turned to her husband and an amazing coincidence. We learned that my son Oscar, a cameraman for Channel 4 in Washington, covering the crowd of 200,000, had taken pictures of her husband with a group of men attending the march!

May the love of God be with you and your family as the journey continues in faith.

Love,

Oscar

## Longtime Disciples Missionary Receives Disciples Peace Fellowship Award

*from Disciples News Service*

Pablo Stone was awarded the Will Wittkamper Award at the Disciples Peace Fellowship breakfast at the General Assembly. This award honors persons who have dedicated themselves to a lifetime of advancing the causes of peace.

As a missionary in Latin America, Stone worked in food development for 30 years. Because of his faithful service he was declared "persona non grata" by the Nicaraguan government. He also served as a volunteer representative for DPF in Washington, DC for 10 years. Pablo is well known for his "bumper sticker" ministry: his car is easily recognized by the 80-plus peace and justice messages holding the car together.

Stone was born in 1928 in Hartford, CT, where parents were preparing to be missionaries in South America. Because of the economic depression at the time, no funds were available to support their quest for a mission. They moved to Kentucky, where Pablo grew up in a number of small communities where his father held pastorates. From 1944 to 1952, Pablo hitchhiked 73,000 miles across 30 states. He traveled to jobs, school, and visited family and friends. He spent three summers working in the Kansas wheat harvests.

With a dream of becoming a missionary, Stone attended Arkansas Tech Junior College, Berea College, and Phillips University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and history. He was commissioned as a missionary by United Christian Missionary Society, the forerunner of the Division of Overseas Ministries and Disciples Home Missions, in 1953. For 30 years, he served as a missionary in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Columbia, and Mexico, working on agriculture and food development issues. He also served as a volunteer representative for Disciples Peace Fellowship in Washington, D.C. for 10 years. Stone is retired and lives in Black Mountain, NC.

## Highlights from the 2011 General Assembly

This year's General Assembly was held July 9–13 in Nashville, TN. The Assembly's general theme was "Tell It!" As we arrived at the General Assembly from all over the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries, expectations of what this year's programs would offer were high, and we were not disappointed. From the pre-Assembly events and registration to the Commissioning sermon, everything was spiritually planned and executed perfectly.

Holly McKissick was the Opening Worship preacher. William L. "Bill" Lee, past Moderator, was the early Sunday morning preacher at the HIV/AIDS healing service. For 11:00 a.m. services, we attended churches of our choice, in and around the Nashville area. The 8:00 a.m. worship services started our days, with the "Be the Change" lecture series at midday. Again, Bill Thomas served as the Assembly's music director, and the music throughout the assembly was superb, with musicians from "Music City USA" whom he invited. We were blessed with spirit-filled evening worship services with leaders Brian McLaren, Fred B. Craddock, and Marian Wright Edelman.

The business sessions were held in the morning and late afternoon. Most notably, the Church adopted resolutions urging the Church to nurture persons suffering from abuse, submitted by Family and Children's Ministries of the Disciples Home Mission; to oppose human trafficking, submitted by the Disciples Women; and to advocate justice in education reform, submitted by the General Commission on Ministry, among others. Our General Minister and President, Sharon Watkins, accepted the nomination for another term in office.

The 2013 General assembly will be held in Orlando, FL, July 13-17, 2013. For detailed information on the 2011 Assembly go to [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga).

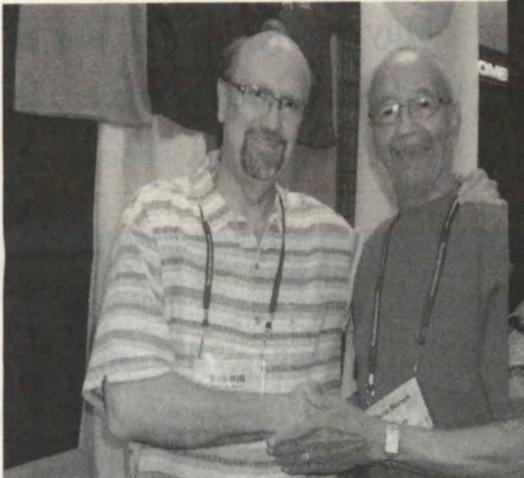
**Pictures of 2011 General Assembly**



**Oscar Haynes, Stella Grudger (Hasson Street Christian Church, Rogersville, TN) and Sarah Hinsley (University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD)**



**Rev. Dr. Robert Perry (Senior Minister of Interfaith Chapel, Leisure World, Silver Spring, MD) and his wife Deb Perry at the Disciples Historical Society.**



**Oscar and Rev. Robert Lee Hill, Senior Pastor of Community Christian Church, Kansas City, MO**



**Oscar and Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, Vice President of Christian Church Foundation**



**Franklin and Vivian Gee, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, Oscar and Rev. Karey Gee**



**Jimmy Mohler, Joan and Susan Erdman**



**Mary Jackson, Oscar, Joan and Susan Erdman**

## THE POET'S CORNER

### Chobey and the Green Glass Eye

Chobey's little scooter was red,  
And his nifty bike red too.  
So was his crown, his head  
And His friend's name  
was Beckie Sue.

One melancholy day he began to sigh.

He pondered briefly  
to think of just why,  
and then he remembered  
the Green Glass Eye.

Beckie Sue had given him this  
beautiful green glass sphere.

She said it was magic  
but that there was nothing to fear.

Chobey jumped and blinked  
when he thought about the eye  
"Where did she get it" he thought,  
"and should he a wish try?"

As he held it and rubbed it and pondered

What to do;

He thought

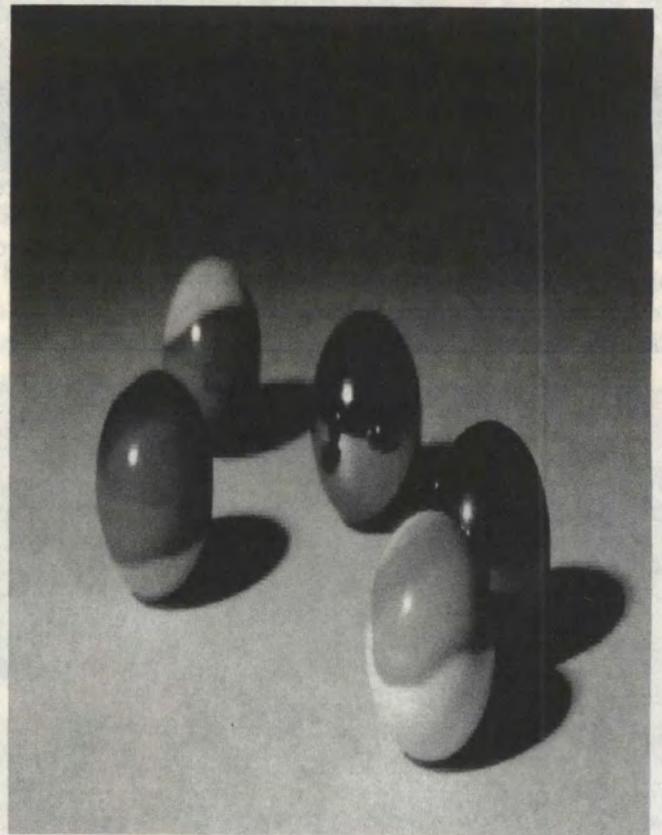
"Before I wish anything  
I'll check first with Beckie Sue."

Beckie Sue laughed  
as she threw back her head.  
"You didn't really believe me, Chobey,  
She said."

"It's just a big old marble that  
belonged to my Dad."

May Reed

Written Wed., August 17, 2011



## The Oldtimers' RECIPE CORNER

### Apple Harvest Cake

- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ cup cooking oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups chopped, peeled apples (2 medium apples)
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup chopped pecans

Generously grease and flour a 10 inch fluted tube pan; set aside. In a large mixing bowl combine the flours, the sugars, cinnamon, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Add oil, vanilla and eggs; beat till well mixed. Stir in chopped apples and nuts. Spoon batter evenly into tube pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool in pan 15 minutes; invert on a wire rack. Cool thoroughly. Serve with a dollop of sweetened whipped cream. Serves 16.

*From The Avon International Cookbook; contributed by Joyce Knox.*

## OVERHEARD

A doctor, a pastor, a boy scout, and the smartest man in the world were on a short flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble.

In spite of the pilot's best efforts, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and bailed out.

Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining.

The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and he jumped out.

The smartest man in the world said, "I'm the smartest man in the world and my contributions can't be lost." He also jumped.

The pastor looked at the boy scout and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The boy handed the parachute back to the pastor and said, "No problem, sir. The smartest man in the world just jumped out with my backpack."

*Related by Dr. Stephen Gentle, National City Christian Church, in his July 24 sermon "Laughter is Good Medicine."*



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** -- Global Ministries is saddened to learn of the death of Reverend Dr. Eugene (Gene) E. Grau of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 8, 2011, at Philadelphia Protestant Home. He was 93 years old. Eugene was born December 28, 1917, in Esslingen, Germany, to Eugen H. Grau and Luise Böhmerle Grau. Dr. Grau came with his family to the United States in 1928, just before his eleventh birthday. In Philadelphia, he attended Olney High School. He graduated from high school at Mission House Academy in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and then attended the Mission House Seminary. He continued his education at the Kennedy School of Missions at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut, where he received his master's degree. He completed his Ph.D. at the Hartford Seminary Foundation and was ordained as a Reformed Church minister in 1944.

Dr. Grau served as pastor of St. Matthews Reformed Church in Philadelphia until 1946, when he was commissioned as a missionary and immediately traveled to Africa to teach in seminaries in the towns of Ho, Peki, and Legon (Accra) in the country of Gold Coast (now Ghana). He returned to the United States in 1974, and was pastor of Brownback's United Church of Christ in Spring City, PA, until his retirement in 1988, when he was named Pastor Emeritus of the congregation. After his retirement, he moved back to Philadelphia and lived at the Philadelphia Protestant Home in the Lawndale section of the city.

Dr. Grau is survived by his beloved wife, Dorothy; their daughter Lois McLean and her husband Benjamin; their sons Thomas Castor Grau and his wife Connie, David Paul Grau and his wife Beryl, and William Eugene Grau and his wife Vickie; his nine grandchildren and eight

great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Elizabeth Fad.

The funeral service was held at Brownback's United Church of Christ on July 23, 2011. Also on July 23, a memorial service was held at Bethany Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA. Messages of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Dorothy Grau, 6575 Tabor Ave Apt 119, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5361, or to Mr. David P. Grau, 911 Easton Rd, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2036.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6500 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111 or Brownback's United Church of Christ, 640 Ridge Road, Spring City, 19475  
[www.brownbackschurch.org](http://www.brownbackschurch.org)



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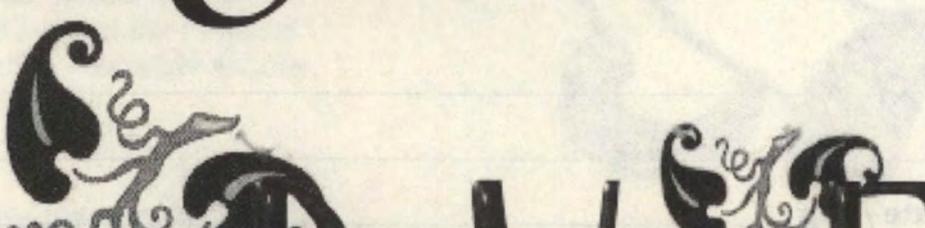
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