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2013

### The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 22 (January - December 2013)

John Richard Foulkes Sr.

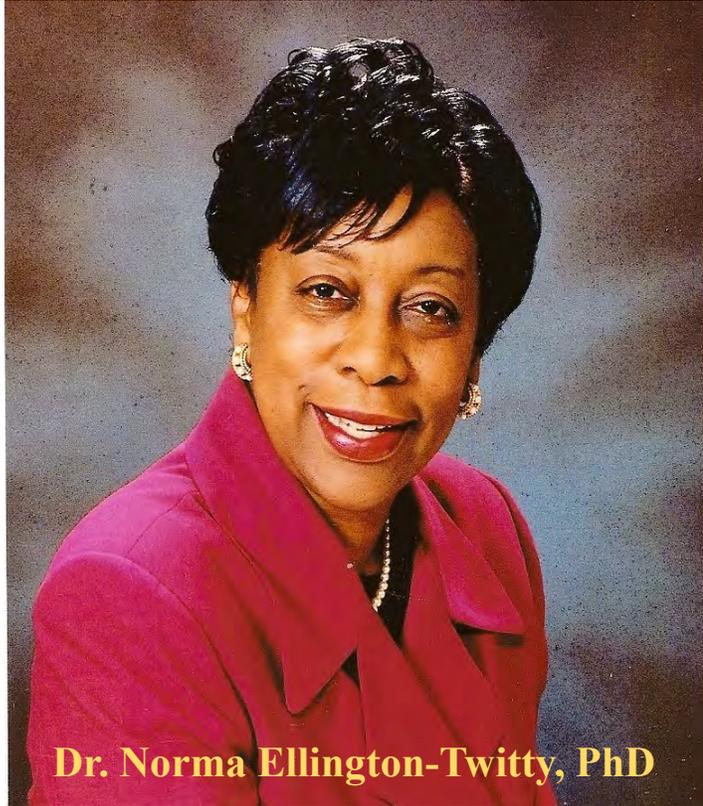
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# The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

January-March '13

Volume 22, Issue 1



**Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, PhD**

*"Rejoice in the Lord always.*

*I will say it again: Rejoice!"*

## **Celebrating a Ministry of Love and Friendship**

Beloved Grapevine Readers,

It is a joy to have this opportunity to share "good news" that I am sure will cause you to rejoice. First and foremost, *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* is 22 years old as of February 2013. The visionary founder and first Publisher/Editor of the *Newsletter*, William K. Fox, distributed the first issue of the Grapevine in February 1991. He asked potential readers: *"How is your communication with brothers and sisters you have shared the journey of faith with for the past 25,* We rejoice in the resounding answer: "Yes", from those initial 100+ who received the first *Newsletter*.

### Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

<sup>3</sup> For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

We continue to rejoice in the vision and dedication that Fox showed in creating *The Grapevine* and the ten years of leadership he provided, a ministry he stated: "would move our friendship connection to a more personalized and caring level".

In January 2001 Oscar Haynes succeeded Fox as Editor/Manager of *The Grapevine*. In the January/February 2004 issue of the publication, William K. Fox stated: *"The Oldtimers' Grapevine, under Oscar Haynes sacrificial leadership, continues to manifest the wholeness and togetherness in Christ by the content of its copy and multiracial readership and financial support."* Throughout his service to the publication, Hayne's leadership has resulted in the formation of an excellent staff of contributing writers; an expanded newsletter format; increased circulation; and faithfulness to the vision of our founder. We rejoice and give thanks for Hayne's leadership and dedication. [Continued on page 2]

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Last year Hayne's indicated a desire to retire from his role as Editor of The Grapevine. As of January 2013 he has served 12 years as editor. It should be noted that he celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 15, 2013. With such a record of service, we were inspired to work diligently to find a successor.

With assistance from our Board, petitions to God for guidance, and with Hayne's full involvement; we embarked on finding new leadership for our beloved publication. We sought a person who knew The Grapevine's history and mission, a person who knew the church at all levels, and a person who had a background in journalism or writing.

The Lord has blessed us with such a person and we rejoice in announcing our new Publisher and Executive Editor of The Oldtimers' Grapevine, John R. Foulkes. This issue is his first edition of what we hope will be many more. Many of you know Foulkes as the former Executive Secretary of the National Convocation, a position that our founder held as well. Foulkes was aware of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* when it was an idea and he saw its promise for the very beginning. He is pleased to be in the position to provide leadership that can ensure the ongoing relevance of the publication and help to shape its future. John will introduce himself to readers in a separate article. Please welcome him and let John know we rejoice in him joining The Grapevine family.

As we transition to new leadership for our publication, there is one more thing the Board thought would be important. The Board has named Oscar Haynes as *The Oldtimers' Grapevine Editor/Publisher Emeritus*. We celebrate Hayne's rich legacy and we look forward to hearing his voice as a contributing editor in the future. Please let Oscar know of your appreciation for his work and it is not too late to rejoice and wish him a Happy Birthday!!

Finally, I rejoice in our Grapevine family. To our Grapevine staff and board I extend thanks for all you

do to make the publication a success. I rejoice in your commitment to excellence and your care for the informational needs of our readers. An important part of our Grapevine family is you, the reader. I rejoice in your faithful and dedicated support of all we do. We solicit your continuing donations as we strive to take this ministry to the next level of being a valued resource to an ever expanding group of readers.

Your Sister in Christ,

Norma R. Ellington-Twitty, Ph.D.

## **ENABLING SERVANTS**

**Dr. William K. Fox (1917-2004)**  
**Founding Editor**

### **The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE DIRECTORS**

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Robbie Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD  
Dr. D. Duane Cummins, Swanton, MD  
Katherine Fox-Cunningham, Indianapolis, IN  
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Publisher/Executive Editor Emeritus  
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Doris Daugherty  
Treasurer, Washington, DC

Donna Haynes  
Production Manager, Washington, DC

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Dr. Ernest Newborn, Claremont, CA  
Jimmy Mohler, Kansas City, MO  
Kim Atwater, Washington, DC  
May Reed, Indianapolis, IN

## JR-Editor Column

You have called me to an awesome task framed by the ministry of two of my most important mentors. I am both humbled by your call and the opportunity that stands before us. Let me begin this journey by outlining a few things that are foundational for me.

Oscar Haynes, while serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Division of Homeland Ministries, pressed that board in 1979 to resource a census of the Black Church in 1980. William Hannah, then Executive Secretary of the Department of Evangelism and Membership, asked me to design, administer and evaluate the process. Four “young” ministers, LaTaunya Bynum, Gregory Alexander, William Edwards and Delores Turner, spent the summer of 1980 interviewing the critical leadership of over 250 congregations gathering the most comprehensive description of the Black Church as of that date. I was called to the staff of DHM in September of 1980 and guess what my first assignment was.

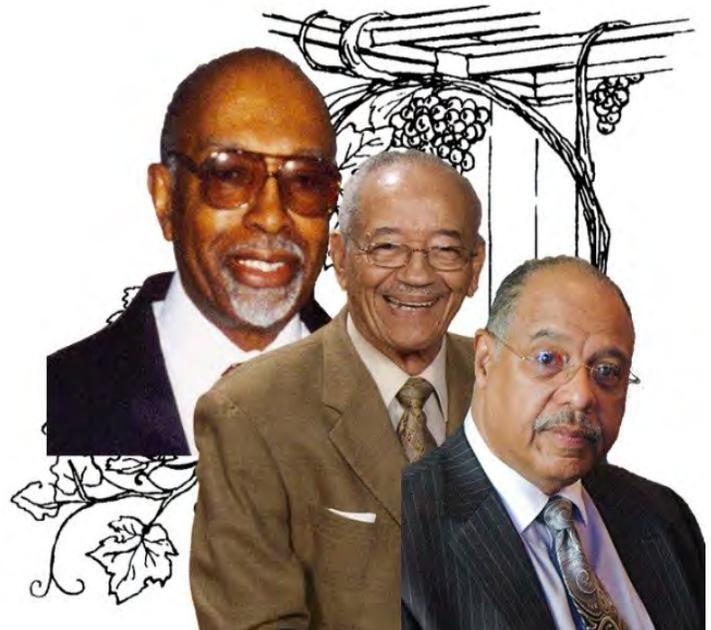
One of the observations drawn out of the data was that if all of the pastors over 65 were to retire, more than half of our congregations would be without a pastor. As we pushed that observation we learned that few of those pastors could afford to retire. In addition to the retirement issue we found that most of those pastors and their regional and general staff counterparts were struggling so hard to be effective and competent in the emerging partnerships that little leadership development was done and retirement became a concept they had not even begun to phantom.

We have been called to facilitate the celebration of the gifts and graces present in those who have moved beyond employment to a life for which we have few models. In addition to our exploration of identity and purpose we are being followed by others who like us, are struggling to be effective and competent. The problem is the current generation of strugglers doesn't know how to reach out to those who have moved into retirement for wisdom and those of us in retirement don't know how to share our wisdom or celebrate our journey. We have quite a challenge.

I am a systems person. That identity is based in training, employment and most of all spiritual gift. Things just function in connections for me and if you throw me in a garbage dump, I will straighten out the garbage.

I am writing a book which I am titling Dancing with God based on the application of Eph. 4:11-16 to ministry in the church. I am arguing that:

- if at the moment of faith the Holy Spirit indwells the believer and brings gifts to enable the believer to be an effective part of God's salvation instrument on earth, the church;
- if these believers, with these God given gifts are the church;
- then ministry within the church is a choreography of the Dance With God.



As we Dance With God through the charge that we have accepted, the following statements of purpose will be elements in our choreography. The purpose of OldTimers Grapevine, an instrument of God in the church, is to:

- Enhancement of communication and sharing of mutual experiences;
- Conveying a holistic view of aging and health;
- Being an advocate for seniors to become a support and loving, caring community;
- Giving honor and dignity to the lives of those included in “For Whom The Bell Tolls”; and
- Highlighting opportunities for the maintenance of a high quality life style and service in retirement.

Know that I am blessed to be part of the team and am committed to render my gifts so that God will be pleased with the dancing that we are doing.

*John Richard*

## Overheard



A priest was invited to a party so he properly dressed wearing his Priest's Collar. A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the

priest asked the little boy "why are you staring at me?" He pointed to the priest's neck. The priest asked the boy did he know why he was wearing the collar? The boy nodded yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months."



A preacher went to his church office on Monday morning and discovered a dead mule (jackass to the knowing) in the church yard. He called the police. Since there

did not appear to be any foul play, the police referred the preacher to the health department. They said since there was no health threat that he should call the sanitation department. The sanitation manager said he could not pick up the mule without authorization from the mayor.

Now, the preacher knew the mayor, and was not eager to call him. The mayor had a bad temper and was generally hard to deal with, but the preacher called him anyway. The mayor did not disappoint. He immediately began to rant and rave at the pastor and finally said, "Why did you call me anyway? Isn't it your job to bury the dead?" The preacher paused for a brief prayer and asked the Lord to direct his response. He was led to say, "Yes, Mayor, it is my job to bury the dead, but I always like to notify the next of kin first!"

## Disciples News Roundup

### LEADERS CALLED

On Wednesday, March 13th the call of two leaders was announced.



The Roman Catholic Church elected Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires as the 266th pope of the Catholic Church who took the name Pope Francis. He is the first Latin pope to lead the 1.2 billion member Catholic church, as well as the first Jesuit.

On that same date Sheila Spencer, the Nationally Board Certified educator who served as a Director in the Office of Disciples Women, was called to the position of Assistant to the President and Director of Specialized Christian Education and Faith Formation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Disciples Home Missions. Sheila is a graduate of the University of Southern California and received her graduate degree from California State Dominguez Hills. She is an author, writer, educator, speaker, and poet with works including her book of poetry entitled Unto Whom Much is Given, and numerous inspirational articles for magazines and educational curriculum.



## Welcome of Stranger Leads to Cooperative Community Event

By Rev. Jesse L. Myers, First Christian Church Bryan/College Station, TX

Rob Chandler was an avid runner when he came to First Christian Church of Bryan/College Station in the fall of 2000. During his seven years as the church's pastor, he let it be known that daily runs provided some of his best time for prayer and reflection. His passion for running was exceeded by his compassion for those in need. Matthew 25:40, "just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me" was known to be the guiding light of Rob's faith and ministry. During the summer of 2006, Rob found his passion for running to be helpful once again. A Ugandan student befriended by Rob and adopted by the congregation in 2001, needed to visit his ailing father back home. Without any financial resources to draw on such a trip was impossible. Rob stepped forward and with his leadership the congregation organized a benefit run for Mark Musumba. Held on the campus of Texas A&M University in July 2006 nearly \$10,000 was raised, more than enough for the trip to Africa. A significant gift was given his family and the remainder served as an educational fund for Mark, who graduated from Texas A&M in 2012 with a PhD in Agricultural Economics. Today Mark is working to improve water resources in developing nations while completing post-doctoral work at Columbia University in New York.

But the story doesn't stop there.

The congregation was shocked to learn of Rob's unexpected death during Easter weekend 2009. While Rob had stepped down as the church's pastor in 2007, he and his family remained in town and connected to the congregation. By early summer of 2009 it was clear that somehow the best of Rob's generous faith needed to be reclaimed. Once again his passion for running and his compassion for those in need offered guidance. The 2006 Musumba run became our model. Habitat for

Humanity of Bryan/College Station was selected as the event's beneficiary because of their methods and also because their work focused on needs felt in the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Planning for the first Chandler Run/Walk began in August 2009. A whirlwind of scheduling, resource development, and volunteer recruitment followed. On a very cold December day approximately 80 people walked and ran on the campus of Texas A&M University. Approximately \$3,600 was turned over to Habitat that first year. The Texas A&M Baseball team, and its head coach Rob Childress, became solid partners in year 2, providing Olsen Field as the event's home. Their participation offered inspiration for the name, "Run for the House." Last fall 150 participants joined with A&M student volunteers, church members and numerous financial sponsors from both the church and the community to raise \$7,262. During the past four years the Chandler "Run for the House" 5K Run/2K Walk has generated over \$19,800 for Habitat's local building activities. The event has become a labor of love and a hands-on outreach program for First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Bryan/College Station, Texas!



## WEEK OF COMPASSION CORNER

By Jimmy Mohler's

Who is YOUR 6-year-old?

Hubby Ken and I recently sat in on the basketball game of our Godson Jimmy. He is six, and he has never made a basket. As this particular game progressed, Jimmy saw (while faithfully guarding his opponent) that his mother had her camera out. Action continued all around him, but Jimmy faced the camera, hands on hips with a big smile. On another trip down the court, Jimmy thought it was time for him to jump out and hug his Godparents in the bleachers. Such is the nature of kindergarten basketball, and such is the delight of being a Godparent – or a parent or a grandparent or an aunt or an uncle or a friend of a 6-year-old.

Jimmy Mattioli was born on March 22, 2006, 7 months before our Godson Jimmy. Jimmy Mattioli died December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Who is YOUR 6-year-old, and what will you do to help keep your 6-year-old safer?

Many of you know retired Presbyterian minister, “Jimmy” Atwood. Since his parishioner Herb Hunter was gunned down by someone robbing the Hunter Motel in 1975, Dr. James E. Atwood has campaigned for gun safety. Dr. Atwood, even before Sandy Hook, published his book, *AMERICA AND ITS GUNS: A Theological Expose*. Dr. Atwood is a gun owner, hunter, and member of the NRA. Yet he joins the majority of Americans in advocating a better balance between second amendment rights and public safety.

Following that terrible December 14, 2012 massacre, Dr. Atwood wrote: “The little children were probably dreaming of Christmas morning when a monster opened fire with his state-of-the-art weapons. Don’t say you’re shocked that 20 children were slaughtered –

and more of us must admit that, unless something changes, we expect there will be more such massacres. Isn’t it time for this nation to say, ‘We’ve had enough?’ When will people of faith awake and lead this gun-crazed country to adopt laws which make our streets and elementary schools as safe as those in other developed nations? Any gun lover who does not grieve over this tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and who continues to oppose any and all preventive measures to stop gun violence, serves an idol instead of the Living God.”

We hug our Godson Jimmy even more since December 14. We are writing more letters and bringing more programs to our church and the larger community. Dr. Atwood will be in Kansas City for a prayer vigil on the six month anniversary of Sandy Hook, hopeful to be offering up prayers of thanks for successful actions that improve background checks or that ban high-capacity magazines or ... Are you on the crusade, serving a Living God?

Helpful websites include:

[www.bradycenter.org](http://www.bradycenter.org)

[www.americansforresponsiblesolutions.org](http://www.americansforresponsiblesolutions.org)

[www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org)

[www.protectpolice.org](http://www.protectpolice.org)

Action is a form of prayer. Let us pray together.

Thank you, OTG readers



## Oscar's Notes

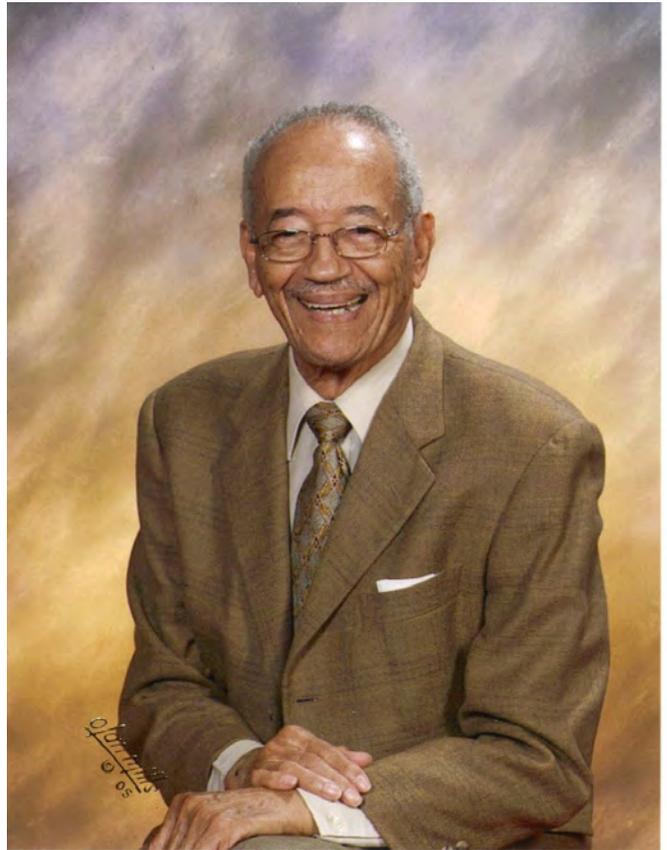
### “Introducing John”

As I share with you the major good news we are evidencing, I am confident that it is truly God's love for this media ministry and those involved. Beginning early 2012, I opened conversation with Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, Chair of our board, on the need for transition of leadership for our newsletter and I set a target date of January 18, 2013, my 97th birthday. This was due in large part to annoying health issues which led me to seek new leadership of our growing publication.

My love of journalism grew from the day I entered Howard University to the production of the first newsletter at 12th Street Christian Church in 1936. This love followed my call to serving my country during World War II. I had to leave Tuskegee University, for service in the Air Force Engineers. Our 823rd Aviation Engineers Battalion built two (2) air bases in Florida and then shipped to Assam, India, where our new assignment was building the Ledo Road between India and China.

After approval by our Battalion Commander I spent the next three (3) years publishing a newsletter (The Hairy Ears Herald), a great morale booster for our troops in this isolated region. My next assignment was a month of recuperation on the beach in Atlantic City and final service was feature writer with the Kearns Post Review, Kearns Air Force base 16 miles from Salt Lake City, Utah.

God's Beloved, I share this to help you realize my sadness in passing the mantle of full responsibility on to new leadership. Journalism has always been a life long love. What saddens even more is my constant contact with my favorite dedicated lovers and contributors of this ministry. In spite of my deep love for journalism, enhancing the legacy of Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, (Bill, my spiritual brother), I am blessed to know that this ministry will move to the dedicated leadership of Rev. Dr. John R. Foulkes. John was a dear friend of the founding Editor/Publisher, as well as a life long friend of mine. It is a humbling thought to realize that I as a lay person had the honor to provide commendable leadership (2002 - 2013) between the tenure of two reputable clergymen.



The Jan-Mar, 2013 issue of the newsletter is being developed by both John and me. John will pick up the full responsibilities of the Publisher/Editor as the OTG moves into a phase of re-visioning to meet the needs of communication in the 21st century. I will remain an active part of the newsletter for as long as God gives me strength. I hope that you will continue to see this as your ministry as well.



**TOMORROW DAY**

Tomorrow Day, when will it be?  
 Tomorrow Day, when will we see?  
 Looking into the heaven's  
 so far away,  
 I am very certain  
 through the veil of time  
 my heart has glimpsed this ray.  
 Although said, "Tomorrow never comes"  
 As I peer into my heart's mind  
 of azure blue sky,  
 I sense its presence – some.  
 Sun winks, shines and blinks as I ask  
 If this might be true  
 Then slips behind the clouds  
 as Sun fondly loves to do.  
 I'll keep watching, waiting,  
 For I know surely one day,  
 though yet far away,  
 We'll see HIM coming in the clouds  
 for it'll then be  
 Tomorrow Day.



by  
**May Reed**

Dedicated  
 to the  
 memory of  
 Fannie Mae  
 Braxton  
 Mother of  
 Dr. Dale  
 Braxton  
 Mon., Feb-  
 ruary 18,  
 2013

**WHEN EARWAX IS A PROBLEM**

Everyone has earwax. There are special glands in the ear canal that produce earwax in small amounts. The wax dries in your ear canal before the movement of your jaws pushes it out.

--Earwax is an important part of the body's natural defense system. Earwax lubricates and protects the eardrum from foreign matter such as water and insects. Earwax is natural and healthy.

--Earwax becomes a problem when it builds up and eventually blocks the ear canal. When earwax does build up, you may sense some small hearing loss or have a feeling of "fullness" in the ear.

--Ears are generally self-cleaning but if you have a problem with too much earwax, you can use cleansing methods, unless your eardrum has a hole in it. You can put two to three drops of mineral oil in your ear at bedtime. Try this for three days. The mineral oil should soften and help loosen the wax.

**WAYS TO HELP PREVENT EAR DAMAGE**

- Do not squirt water into your ear.
- Avoid putting anything in your ear smaller than your elbow-for example:
- No cotton-tipped applicators
- No hair pins
- No bobby pins
- No matchsticks

The above methods of trying to clean the wax will only push the wax closer to the eardrum. You could cause serious damage to your ear – even dizziness and permanent hearing loss.



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

## For Whom The Bell Tolls

WASHINGTON, DC --- Celebration of Life Services for **Elder Mary Anne Millner Williams**, Korean War-time bride to her best friend Macon West Williams, were held Saturday, January 12, 2013 at Twelfth Street Christian Church with Rev. Dr. Paul H. Saddler, Senior Pastor officiating. Affectionately known as "Anne" was born Dec. 18, 1933 in Henry County of Axton, VA to the late Roosevelt and Madie Fowlkes Millner. She departed earthly life January 8, 2013 at the Washington Adventist Hospital surrounded by her family.

Education was a staple to Mary Anne. Her childhood education was in Mountain Valley, VA, and Junior High and High School were in Martinsville, VA. She postponed her Collegiate career at North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, to marry the love of her life, Macon on April 11, 1952. Through this union of love six blessings were bestowed upon them, Rickey, Pamela, Macon H.B. (Bromley), Veaton, Victor and Courtney.

During Macon's deployment to Korea, Mary Anne attended Dixie Nursing School in Hampton, VA and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse.(LPN) She returned to Martinsville and began employment in the Community Hospital. A few years later she and Macon moved to Washington, DC and Anne began work at the Washington Hospital Center. Realizing she should continue her education she enrolled and graduated cum laude at the University of District of Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Therapy. She pur-

sued her love for grammar and graduated with a Masters of Science Degree in Speech Therapy from University of Maryland, College Park.

This led to Mary Anne becoming employed with the District Public School System as Special Education Speech Pathologist. With a special love for children she eagerly spent the next 28 years of dedicated service to students in various DC Schools. She retired in 1995. A teacher at heart she joined a team of teachers at the Veterans Upward Bound Program held at UDC teaching veterans crucial life skills. She loved traveling which included every state in the US, notable places in the Mediterranean, Sudan, Korea, Egypt, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and the Bahamas. She also enjoyed directing and writing theatrical plays and dramas and is the recipient of numerous awards and citations.



This woman of great faith was a life-long member of Twelfth Street where she served as an Elder, President of Youth Fellowship, Sunday School Superintendent and Director of the Drama Club. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Macon; daughter, Pamela Yousif; sons, Macon H.B. Williams (Avis); Victor (Williams) Lambert and Courtney (Williams) Lambert (Rebecca); Uncle David E. Millner (Hattie); 14 Grandchildren; 25 Great Grandchildren; and a host of cousins and friends.

(Continued from Page 9)

ST. LOUIS, MO --Troublemaker, Agitator, Rebel, names which **Oral Lee Malone** were proud of, peacefully passed away October 30, 2012. This beloved longtime labor leader, civil rights activist was a faithful member of Centennial Christian Church was 93 years old.

Ora was the eldest of nine children born to William & Lillian (Wayne) Thomas in Brooksville, MS. She moved to St. Louis in 1951 and was a pieceworker, employed by the California Manufacturing Company. Most of the employees were Black and disgusted with working conditions, Ora organized the employees to form a local unit of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Ora was elected shop steward, a position she held 19 years. She became the union's first African American business representative, representing workers in 27 stores and three (3) factories.

Her many accomplishments included a Commissioner of the Bi-State Development Agency (now Metro) and a commissioner of the St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority, created to oversee the construction and operation of the Edward Jones Dome. She also was a founding member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women in Missouri and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

This tireless leader was instrumental in organizing the St. Louis branch of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and was affiliated with the St. Louis Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus and the New Democratic Coalition. She worked tirelessly in support of legislation protecting voting rights and expansion of the minimum wage law. She also worked with Randall Robinson in the fight against apartheid and locally organized co;ection drives to send fabric to the women of South Africa.

Ora was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Sturdivant Malone and her brothers, Dr. Albert Thomas, John Thomas and Grantford Thomas. She is survived by her sisters Manassie Williams and Annie Jackson, brothers Robert Earl Thomas (Jean), William Thomas and Marvin Thomas. Survivors also include a niece, Judge Carol Jackson, and a host of other relatives and friends.

## Reader's Comment Corner



"Dear Oscar,  
I really appreciate the inclusion of the Healthvine by Kim Haynes. As a geriatric nurse, on her comments on Shingles, I would add the new Shingles vaccine (Zostavax) often recommended for people over 60."

Brenda Cleary, RN, PhD  
Cary, NC

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Dear Staff,  
"We hope all is well with you. God bless!"

Shadyne & Eldredge Williams  
Memphis, TN

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TO: Oldtimers' Grapevine Staff.  
"Please accept this donation from June and Don Rodgers, %Challenger Center, to honor our dear 'young-at-heart friend' Oscar Haynes." Thanks, June

Dr. June Scobee & Don Rodgers  
Challenger Center,  
422 1st Street SE, 3rd floor,  
Washington, DC

---

TO: Rev. Mary Anne Glover  
"In the October-December issue of the Oldtimers' Grapevine I read the excellent article about you and your accomplishments in your ministry. I have told Oscar the publication is very important for us Disciples as it interprets the importance of our African American leaders." Your friend in Christ.

Paul A. Crow, Jr. Ph.D., D.D.  
Indianapolis, IN

## Thank You For Your Gifts

Rev. James & Nancy Johnson, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, Clinton, MS; Roscoe & Clara Dickerson, Cleveland, OH; Rev. Jerry & Shannon Norris, Hagerstown, MD; Mrs. Mary J. Thomas, Washington, DC; Eldredge M. & Shadyne J. Williams, Memphis, TN; Dr. Brenda Cleary, Cary, NC; Mrs. Gwendolyn B. Robinson, Hyattsville, MD; Marjorie J. Bennett, Silver Spring, MD; Vera D. Russell, Philadelphia, PA; Dr. June Scobee & Don Rodgers, % Challenger Center, Washington, DC; Mary M. Watson, Kansas City, MO; Robbie & Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Rev. John R. & Marilyn Foulkes, Indianapolis, IN; Mary E. Mitchell, Indianapolis, IN; Mildred L. Patterson, Kernersville, NC; Rev. William & Mary Helen Blackwell, Harrisonburg, VA; Mrs. Erbie Person, Bellflower, CA and TaShana Robinson, Indianapolis, IN.

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Enclosed is my/our donation of: \$10 \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your gifts - check or money order to:

The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE, Attn: Doris Daugherty, 3611 Bangor St., SE  
Washington, DC 20020-1245

*The Oldtimers'*  
GRAPEVINE

# The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

April - July 2013

Volume 22, Issue 2



The July 13-17 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was the occasion of four critical events for the OTG community as well as three resolutions that spark critical observations. The following is a report on those events.

## OSCAR HONORED

Our Publisher/Executive Editor Emeritus was honored at the National Convocation's General Assem-

love for this connectional, informational and inspirational ministry.



bly Banquet by the OldTimers' Grapevine community as noted on a beautiful symbolic flame of his dedication and descriptive plaque gratefully acknowledging his vision, commitment, enabling gifts and deep

John Foulkes presented the awards to Oscar on behalf of the OTG community noting the numerous ministries of this loving change agent. Oscar received the awards noting his many friends and being overwhelmed commenting on the love he has for all inviting us to reflect on what OTG has offered.

## John Foulkes Honored

As John and Marilyn Foulkes were assisting Joan and Oscar Haynes from the stage Dr. Timothy James, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation, invited Marilyn and John back to the stage.



Dr. James presented John Foulkes with a plaque noting the resolution of the 2012 -2014 Board of Trustees of the National Convocation naming him Administrative Secretary Emeritus of the National Convocation. Following Dr. James' presentation Patricia Maples, President of the National Convocation award Dr. Foulkes a "Symbolic Gold Card Certificate" enabling John and Marilyn complimentary registration and meals at all National Convocation events. John was speechless.

## John Foulkes Honored Again



Approximately 150 Disciples attended the "Friends of DHM Reception" on Sunday, July 14th following

evening worship. John Richard Foulkes, Sr., was honored as the 2013 Distinguished Leadership Award Recipient.

Ronald J Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions in his presentation reminded us that in 1980 John left the Chicago Board of Education as a 42-year old administrator and pastor of Parkway Garden Christian Church in Chicago, IL, to join the staff of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as the new Director of Special Congregational Services and New Congregational Establishment in the Division of Homeland Ministries.

His commitment and dedication to the ministries of Disciples Home Missions continues to this day. For his never faltering support, trust, hope, faith, and belief on this General Ministry of the Church, Disciples Home Missions proudly recognizes and honors this servant leader of Christ.

John was very surprised and honored by his award and shared with those in attendance that he loved Disciples Home Missions and the work that is done.

The evening was a great tribute to the entire church and all of the work that is done on its behalf.

## Joan Bell-Haynes, First Vice Moderator



Reverend Joan Bell-Haynes is pastor of United Christian Parish of Reston, an ecumenical congregation comprised of four denominations: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church. Joan was ordained 1999. Prior to her call to United Christian Parish she was Program Associate of Spirituality and Justice for The Mennonite Church

assigned to The Spirit House Project on Capitol Hill, a non-profit organization founded and led by civil rights veteran Ruby Sales. She is an alumna of Disciples Divinity House of The University of Chicago (1995). Prior to entering seminary Joan was Associate Dean of Academic Administration for the College of Health Sciences, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. She is a founding member of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. She was one of four persons who began bible study with Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale in 1986. After ten years of leadership, she joined Ray of Hope's staff in 1994 as minister of Christian Education during her early years of theological education at Candler School of Theology.

Rev. Bell-Haynes served associate pastorates in Kansas City and Maryland, as well as an Associate Regional Minister for the Capital Area. She has served the denomination in several capacities: The Board of Church Extension; Vice Moderator of the Greater Kansas City Region, Capital Area Regional Board, The General Board, and The Disciples of Christ Historical Society Board.

Rev. Bell-Haynes is a member of the Reston Ministerium and is very involved in ecumenical and inter-faith ministries in her community. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Christian Church Foundation and Disciples Divinity House, Chicago. Joan resides in Metropolitan Washington, DC with her husband, Oscar Haynes, a dedicated and longtime leader of the Christian Church where she enjoys travel, music and time with her family in both the District of Columbia and Georgia.

### Old Timers' Grapevine After Session

Members of the OldTimers' Grapevine gathered on Tuesday evening after worship at the General Assembly in an After Session. Although it was growing past our bed times, it was great to be together. John Foulkes was able once again to share all of the great leadership changes that Oscar has enabled as a radical lover. John also expressed concern regarding: 1) the coupling of life/experienced wisdom with developing strategies so that the "cloud of witnesses" are resource; 2) the framing of concluded earthly journeys so that they are experienced as both testimony and encouragement for present journey; 3) the ability to effect change out of that wisdom without being



perceived as political -- narrowly focused.

Glenn Thomas Carson, the President of the Disciples Historical Society, encouraged the assembled community by offering to share this issue of OTG with the historical community and assisting us in developing a web page. We will have more on these developments in the next issue.

#### RESOLUTION GA-1327

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

**BECOMING A PEOPLE OF GRACE AND WELCOME TO ALL**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly meeting in Orlando, Florida, July 13-17, 2013, calls upon the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to recognize itself as striving to become a people of grace and welcome to all God's children though differing in race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, political stance or theological perspective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to affirm the faith, baptism and spiritual gifts of all Christians regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and that neither is grounds for exclusion from fellowship or service within the church,

but we celebrate that all are part of God's good creation; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as a people of grace and welcome, to acknowledge their support for the welcome of and hospitality to all.

## **General Minister and President Sharon Watkin's Letter**

July 19, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

Grace and peace to you in the name of the living Christ who lives and moves among us, who calls us to the Table, then sends us forth to serve.

I write to share a word with all Disciples congregations following an important vote at the 2013 Orlando General Assembly.

In these days following assembly, my heart is prayerful; my spirit hopeful; and my love for our church is strong. Surely, God has given Disciples a blessing and a mission for wholeness, welcoming all to the Lord's Table of reconciliation and love.

That blessing and mission for Disciples begins in a congregation. In congregations we come forward and make or reaffirm our confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There we are baptized, our babies are dedicated, we are married and our parents buried. Our faith is nurtured and sometimes challenged in a beloved community of other Disciples we know and love.

We extend the blessing as we join hands with other Disciples congregations to share God's love in our communities and around the world. We offer words and prayers of comfort and challenge, as well as hands-on help, to our neighbor in times of need. In many diverse ways, we learn the story of Jesus and invite others to walk in his love.

The recent vote to "adopt" Resolution GA1327, Becoming a People of Grace and Welcome to All, has significance for the Church, but it is important to rec-

ognize the nature of that significance.

The intent of the resolution is to urge Disciples to welcome into our congregations and other ministries all who seek Christ. It serves as a reminder that among Disciples we do not bar the church door or fence the table from those who desire the embrace of God's love.

Here is what this "Sense of the Assembly" resolution is not: It is not a statement of "unwelcome" for Disciples who did not support the resolution. All who confess faith in Jesus Christ are welcome. All means all.

It is not a policy change. The congregation where you worship and serve will not be requested to establish (or change) a policy on gay or lesbian persons in the life of the Church. The region where your congregation is affiliated is not required to change its policies on ordination. Your pastor is not required to bless same-gender marriages.

It is not a theological mandate. It does not say that we have the same biblical understanding of sexual orientation or gender identity. Disciples, prayerfully and with biblical study and other research, come to their own understanding on these matters.

This resolution does, however, carry symbolic importance in the life of our Church. It reminds us that our baptism into the living Christ continues to be our common ground

It points out that within the broad membership of Disciples, among the many congregations in covenant with each other, there have always been gay and straight, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender persons who participate fully in the life and leadership of the church. It urges us to treat each other with gospel hospitality as we seek to understand each other better.

My deepest hope is that, in the coming weeks and months, with God's help, we will continue in worship and mission together even when we profoundly disagree - as we have so often done before - recognizing that it is God's covenant of love that binds us to God and to one another[1] in Christ. My prayer is that together we will continue to witness to God's gift of reconciliation and wholeness before the brokenness of the world. United though not uniform, diverse but not divided, let us name our differences, then claim

our common calling to be and to share the good news of Jesus Christ who came "that the world might be saved". (John 3:17)

Your sister in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins

General Minister and President, Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

### **Resolution 1337**

#### **CONCERNING THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT TO DISMANTLE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, the United States Supreme Court voted down by a vote of 5-4, Section IV of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 eliminating the process that determines which states require federal pre-clearance before changing the state's voter laws; and

WHEREAS, the decision removed the central provision protecting minorities in states and cities with histories of racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, supporters of the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act say that things have changed and that racial discrimination no longer exists, but the reality of voter suppression tactics of intimidation, gerrymandering, restrictive identification demands, state redistricting and long lines tell a different story; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is seeking to live into its Pro- Reconciliation / Anti-Racism initiative as one of its primary mission priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to be a faithful growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly meeting in Orlando, Florida, July 13-17, 2013, call on Congress to enact legislation that redefines the process for determining which states need preclearance in accordance with Section V of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) call on

members of the church and our ecumenical partners to work for legislation that ensures equal access to the right to vote for all United States citizens; and FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) stand in solidarity with groups and organizations who are seeking justice and equal voice for all persons in order that all may participate with equal opportunity in the decision making processes of the United States.

### **Resolution 1338**

#### **CONCERNING THE STATE OF FLORIDA VS GEORGE ZIMMERMAN**

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has declared itself a Pro- Reconciling/Anti-Racist church; and

WHEREAS, the General Board has adopted our identity statement saying: "We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us;" and

WHEREAS, in 1 Corinthians 1:10, scripture states that the only divisions we have are the ones we create; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, July 13, 2013, in the case of the State of Florida vs. George Zimmerman, Mr. Zimmerman was acquitted by a jury in the death of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year old African American child; and

WHEREAS, the United States Justice Department has initiated a Civil Rights violation inquiry into the case;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Orlando, Florida, July 13-17, 2013, call upon the General Minister and President to work ecumenically with her colleagues in supporting the Justice Department's inquiry; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the words of our General Minister and President, shared in worship pertaining to this case on Sunday evening July 14, 2013, be broadly distributed to the church.

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

### A PASTORAL CARE REFLECTION

WHEN IT COMES TO HUMAN SUFFERING, WE ARE CALLED TO BE SHEPHERDS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE. (Psalms 23:1-3; John 3:16)



Dr. Willie K. Crum, Jr.

I remember my first hospital assignment as a military chaplain at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. As the director of pastoral care, I was about to start patients visitation on the oncology unit when I received a call saying my father was taken to

the hospital. It did not look good. I asked God to let His will be done and give me strength to hold up for my mother. But I lost it, and I needed pastoral care comfort. No matter who you are, you will need God's grace and healing comfort.

The purpose of Pastoral Care Service is to provide religious services and programs that foster an ecumenical approach. It is a source of spiritual and emotional support, providing counseling and guidance to meet the needs of our church members, clients and others in our community. Most often, counseling and guidance are needed to talk about death, a subject everyone wants to stay away from.

As a pastor, chaplain or spiritual leader, death or dying is part of our daily teaching, and we are called to minister to sick and suffering people. It helps us to deal with our own losses or death, too. We also help families arrange funeral plans of their loved ones.

Death occurs when the heart stops, and it is considered to be the end of life. Brain death is when the brainstem has ceased functioning. Death has always been presented as a crisis to the human race. Death is one subject most people avoid, until someone they know dies, and they are forced to confront their own mortality. Death is the last stage of growth in this life. But death is not total. Only our physical body dies, and our soul goes to the Lord according

to John 14:1-3. You may interpret this in any way that makes you comfortable. When one talks about death, one also needs to talk about loss.

Loss is related to dying, too. When the doctor tells his patient there is no treatment for his or her illness, that she or he is going to die, now that person is afraid of losing his/her life. So let us talk about what is loss. Loss is the act of losing one's possessions. Loss is what happens to set off complicated emotions that leave one with the problems of how to keep on living. Loss is a part of one's daily life; therefore, learning, recognizing and naming the loss event is important. Secondary losses are events such as the loss of a breast, loss of control, loss of independence, loss of faith, loss of home, loss of a job, loss of body functions (or dying), loss of weight, and loss through divorce.

As church leaders we can enable these individuals to find a meaning for their lives, their suffering, and their deaths. Sometimes, a pastor, chaplain or spiritual leader can lend valuable assistance. Others need to discover this meaning on their own terms and may need help in finding ways to give the remaining days a sense of purpose. A seriously ill or bedridden patient can do many things to continue growing and participating in life, such as learning to experience their remaining days with full awareness and appreciation for life, coming to accept others, forgiving those that have hurt them, letting go of attachments, offering their pain to God, or learning to communicate honestly with those they love. Loss causes us to grieve, so let us next discuss grief.

Grief is how people feel as a result of the loss or death. In the words of Edgar N. Jackson: "Grief is a universal human experience. It is the strong emotion we feel when we come face to face with the death of someone who has been a part of our lives." What is grief? It is a deep, heartfelt, intense, and severe distress caused by bereavement. Grief is a mixture of raw emotions such as sorrow, anguish, anger, regret, longing, fear, and the deprivation felt by a broken heart. We cannot avoid it, nor can we ignore it.

Grief invades our lives through many sudden

changes, including the loss of a spouse, child, pet, addiction, or job. People grieve because of the end of marriage, retirement, poor health, financial change, or an empty nest. People grieve due to the loss of a relationship that is considered significant to them. One of the deepest losses of them all is when a loved one dies. Going through grief is the only healthy way to deal with loss. Grief is working through one of the hardest tasks anyone may ever undertake; however, grief is normal and natural. It is the most powerful of emotional experiences, and is the most frequently neglected and misunderstood period of time a person can go through.

Some may get more benefit from crying when they are in the presence of others than when they are alone. In deep pain or genuine sorrow, this is true not because you need an audience, but because you need a witness to your pain, a witness in the religious sense. You need someone to testify to the validity of your feelings, to acknowledge them, and to say yes to the good work you are doing in expressing them. The Russians have a saying: "Tears are the baptism of the soul. To be baptized means to be cleansed, to be reborn."

In Donna O'Toole's book, *Healing and Growing through Grief*, she stated, "Most grieving people do not need professional help ... they need a friend. Be there. Grieving people need support and presence much more than advice." I feel that this is true; however; you do not need to say a word, just your presence means so much to them. The final process in providing pastoral care is recovery; this is not a quick fix, so let us talk about it next.

Confronting the loss/death of someone we know, compared to the loss or death of someone unknown to us, is hard. One may feel overwhelmed or helpless at the time the news arrives. Often, many people may run away from helping the bereaved. The experiences of grief listed below can be understood as a weaving, a restoration of wholeness from a wound, that occurs over time.

O'Toole said, "The wound of grief is healed as the person is able to move backward and forward through various grief experiences." Furthermore, O'Toole gave us a great list of guidelines to follow,

which are shared below (in quotation marks): "Seek and Accept Support." Everybody needs counseling, acceptance and caring throughout the time of grief. "Accept Your Grief." In order for a person to get counseling and support, he/she needs to own up to grief, which is the first step to healing. "Find Models." Connect with people who can give you hope. "Learn about Grief." Grief is a normal reaction to death and loss. Allowing you to grieve is healthy. "Express it." Tell your story to anyone who will listen. You can express your grief through music, art and writing. "Accept Your Feelings." Grief has many feelings ... some very intense. Accept them and the meaning of your loss. Lock them up inside you, and you lock away parts of yourself. "Pace Yourself. Grief Takes Energy." Based on these situations that your body is going through, you need to exercise and eat good nutritious meals that will help you to heal. "Don't Be Afraid to Have Fun. Laughter is Good Medicine." My brother lost his wife, and about two years later, he asked me if he should start dating again. I said yes to him. One needs to allow him/herself the opportunities to do different things to bring feeling to a new start.

People have their own ways to allow God's healing power to comfort them. The recovery period is not overnight. It may take weeks, months and years to be able to feel God's healing power at work. Just remember that God is not on vacation. He is right there all the time. Just be patient. He will take care of you.

## Compassion Corner

by Jimmy Mohler

### Another Disciples' Good Samaritan

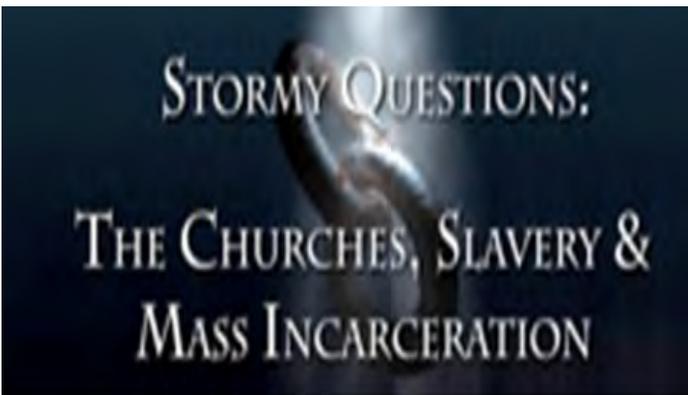
Reflect back, if you will, on your last 1,431 days - almost 4 years ago. Think about what you have experienced in those days - the pain, the joy, the regrets, the celebrations, the learning, the growing. Now think about what it would have been like to have spent those 1,431 days confined. That is what happened to Feliberto Pereira. He was born and raised in Cuba. In 1965, at age 27, Feliberto was ordered by Castro's government officials to work in what were called "forced labor camps." His crime? Preaching the Gospel. Who had compassion for Feliberto Perei-

ra? It was U.S. and Swiss governments. From his long confinement, Feliberto and 4 family members escaped from Cuba to the U.S. on a freedom flight. Having teaching credentials, Feliberto could have lived out his years as a teacher in the U.S. Having seminary credentials, he could have pastored a church. Both would have been noble endeavors signifying a life well-lived. But Feliberto did more, pastoring a church AND founding Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries (SWGSM) in 1985 near where the Gulf of Mexico, Texas and Mexico come together. SWGSM has helped hundreds of asylum seekers from many request refugee status from the U.S. government. This ministry also offers the food and shelter needed in the weeks before an asylum hearing can be scheduled. For nearly three decades, SWGSM has continued and expanded its ministry to help persons in need on both sides of the border.

As our elected officials once again consider immigration reform, Rev. Pereira carries on.

Disciples throughout North America have supported this ministry by organizing mission trips and contributing cash, but the needs are particularly great now.

Feliberto is older than many OTG readers, but shows no signs of retiring from his decades of being the Good Samaritan. Will you join me in praying each day for 1,431 days for Feliberto, matching the number of days he was confined in Cuba? Mine would include a prayer of thanks that I am not in a forced labor camp, a prayer for all who are persecuted, a prayer for guidance in ways I can help, and a prayer of celebration that God gives us Good Samaritans! Thank you Feliberto! (contact: SWGSM.org; 956-233-5198)



May 18th The Disciples Historical Society hosted a forum at the Vine Street Christian Church of Nashville, Tennessee wrestling with the historical issue of the church and slavery, the modern parallel of mass incarceration and ways in which the church can recover its prophetic voice by forming communities with those condemned by the criminal justice system.

150 years have passed since the Emancipation Proclamation. By examining the church's response - or lack thereof - to slavery, we can see more clearly the oppression resulting from a war on drugs that has spanned four decades and resulted in unprecedented numbers of people, mostly minorities, being incarcerated. Informed by the past, the church must discern how to respond in the present to systemic injustice.

As Michelle Alexander has pointed out in her book, *The New Jim Crow*, we have an analogous evil in our midst today, which is the mass incarceration that has resulted from four decades of a drug war that has almost exclusively targeted poor communities of color, and a punitive, adversarial criminal justice system that defines justice in terms of process, not outcome, and provides little opportunity for healing and reconciliation. If the church is to take seriously the gospel of following a condemned criminal who proclaimed freedom for prisoners, we must acknowledge that we are failing in the same way as our nineteenth century predecessors did.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, Disciples of Christ Historical Society is featuring an exhibit on the response of the Christian Churches to the institution of slavery. Apart from a minority abolitionist movement, which was regarded as radical, the overall attitude of the church was tolerance for the evil of slavery in its midst.

Please visit the Historical Societies web page at "[www.discipleshistory.org](http://www.discipleshistory.org)" to view the on line exhibit, *The Stormy Question: Christian Churches & The Slavery Issue*.

## PENSION FUND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Over the years of his ministry, Dr. Sam Hylton has had young and young-at-heart ministers visit him to receive mentoring and instruction in the call to ministry. As he taught them about scriptures, theology, church administration and care of parishioners, he also had plenty to say about stewardship.



Dr. Hylton and his wife Mildred, who has shared in the ministry over the years, have modeled a lifestyle that provides the freedom to give generously to support ministries across the life of the church.

Dr. Hylton was ordained in 1951 and served his first pastorate at Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He served as senior minister of Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis for 37 years and is now pastor emeritus. Mildred served as organist at Centennial for more than 25 years.

"It is a must for a minister to be a member of the Pension Fund," said Dr. Hylton. "I can't conceive

that today's minister will be able to make it into retirement without the Pension Plan. And each person needs to have some saving on his or her own to supplement the pension."

Many clergy live their whole ministries in a parsonage, leaving them without a place to live in retirement. Dr. Hylton encourages each minister to make arrangements for a permanent home in retirement, either by purchasing a house over the years or by having funds ready to purchase a home at the point of retirement. This, along with pension and savings, will provide good security for both the member and the spouse.

Acknowledging the financial pressures congregations feel today, Dr. Hylton said, "If at all possible, it is important for the congregation to provide this benefit. Remember that membership includes a spouse pension, education for children if the member dies in active service, and other benefits."

Under his leadership and in partnership with National Benevolent Association, Centennial Christian Church established affordable housing for the low-income elderly. Both Hylton Point Apartments (1996) and Hylton Point II (2000) are named in honor of Dr. Hylton.

In early years of his retirement, Dr. Hylton served on staff of the Christian Church Foundation, with specific responsibility for the Black Disciples Development Fund. His other leadership in the wider church included a term as President of National Convocation, Vice Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), trustee of Pension Fund, trustee of Board of Church Extension, and member of the General Board.

He and Mildred have one daughter, Karen Elizabeth Hylton. Their niece, Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale is senior pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Georgia.

## POET'S CORNER



My dream made me  
think of Miles Woods  
who is a little friend of  
mine. He is quite a  
whistler. I like to whis-  
tle too. I told Miles  
“One day we should  
whistle a song togeth-  
er.”

He is a fine lad. Earli-  
er this year he gave his  
life to Christ and was

baptized. His mom and  
dad, Derek and Dr. Cindi Woods are terrific  
parents. They are members of the New Covenant  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev.  
Dr. Judy D. Cummings, Senior Pastor, Nashville, TN.

### LITTLE WHISTLER BOY

[‘T was a dream]

My how they clapped,  
Some said, golly, gee.

Others cheered as they called out  
“whistle another one, please ee eee.”

The wonder they experienced as they  
Listened to the child;  
His little lips pouted and he whistled  
a long while.

The little lad stood perfectly still.

I felt soothed by the sound  
For it was surreal.

Cars slowed to brake

But he just stood still,  
whistling so clearly;

My gosh, goodness sake.

More now came running,

They laughed and smiled with glee

While some began asking

“Who taught you to whistle,  
You are so wee?”

He then stopped and answered

“I can whistle most anything

Tho I’m only three –

For I asked Jesus and HE said

“YES, you can whistle for ME.”

May Reed

Written Tue., May 28, 2013

## FROM THE GRAPEVINE

“Dear Oscar,

What a surprise it was to read of your well-deserved  
retirement in Dr. Ellington’s article. Thanks for your  
many years of service. It has been a great inspiration  
walking with you.”

Love,

Rev. Sonia (Louden)Walker

Memphis, TN

“Dear Oscar,

Thank God for your splendid job with the Oldtimers  
Grapevine.”

Ernest & Janis

Rev. Dr. Ernest & Dr. Janis Newborn

Claremont, CA

“Dear Oscar,

Reading the Oldtimers’ I had to write you a brief note, the notation of you by the Chair and then noted by the new Editor, great. And then your article – you will be missed. Enjoy each day good health.

Your Sister-in-Christ,

Deloris Ruddock

National City Christian Church

Dear John,

As a longtime friend and a regular reader of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine, I write to congratulate you as the new Publisher and Executive Editor of that important journal of the Disciples of Christ. I have long thought of it as an essential voice among our people, equally important as any Disciple publication. As you know, we Disciples do not have an abundance of journals and magazines within our church. I consider this fact a sign of our spiritual and intellectual poverty.

John, our friendship goes back a long ways. Your appointment as the editor of the Oldtimers’ Grapevine gives me hope for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our church needs voices of integrity that will teach us, focus us, and call us to represent the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our woefully secular society.

One suggestion: Do put a good picture of you on the front page of the next issue and print a summary of your life and ministry so more folks can know you and appreciate your gifts.

Life goes well for Mary and me. I can’t believe that I am 81 years old. I keep telling Mary that someone has made a mistake! I tell everyone that I am “semi-retired”. Fortunately I still occasionally preach, lecture, or counsel misguided Disciples. My correspondence goes in all directions. But I do all things at my pace and my choice!

I recently reread Harry Emerson Fosdick’s autobiography, *The Living of the Days* (New York: Harper and Row, 1956), and was spiritually fed by his reflections and teachings. He gave me several spiritual insights that I will share with you: “It is magnificent to grow old -- if only one stays young.” .... “As for the world’s future, I am not so discouraged as many are. Granted

that the old, easygoing optiism is impossible! ... Nevertheless, at threescore-years-and-eighteen I find this generation the most stimulating, exciting, provocative -- yes promising -- era I have ever seen or read about. I am not yet ready to die. I want to see what is going to happen next. Prophetic, germinative ideas are here; there are open doors of possibility for good as well as evil; and though I am an old man, I share at least a little the hopeful spirit of the young, facing life.” Fosdick was a preacher of the authentic Gospel!

I have placed you on my prayer list, John. So be careful what you say or do!

You friend in Christ.

Paul A. Crow, Jr.

## **Journeying On**

Through the years, Dr. Foulkes’ Journey has not been easy–

But he has stood like a “Druid of Old”,

Guiding, counseling, enabling

Striving to reach his goal.

One thing that is going to make his transition easy–

The prior sacrificial leadership Oscar gave;

He followed the vision of Dr. Fox

Who was skilled, dedicated and brave.

We, Disciples, are truly blessed-With dedicated leaders here and there-

Who continue to give their service

Enabling us through the power of prayer.

May our Golden Years be a beacon-

Giving love and peace everywhere;

Together, we’ll make the journey-

Continuing through the power of prayer

So let us continue to TELL THE STORY

Seeking God’s guidance through new territory.

5/01/13

Ruth P. Hobbs

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

### Former deputy general minister dies



The Rev. Howard Dentler, who served as the deputy general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for nearly 20 years under four denominational leaders, died July 3 in Mount Pleasant, IA. He was 90.

A Celebration of Life service will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 11 in First Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant by the Rev. James P. Johnson, president emeritus of the Christian Church Foundation. Inurnment will follow in White Oak Cemetery. Memorials will be placed in the Howard E. and Mary Lou Dentler Fund of the Christian Church Foundation that will endow ministries of Week of Compassion, Pension Fund and Lexington Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dentler was a native of Chicago. He married his high school sweetheart, Mary Lou Schweidler, in 1942. She died in 2012. After a stint in the Army, he received a bachelor's degree in business from Stetson University in Deland, FL, in 1948, and operated his parents' hotel and his own motel in Orlando, FL.

In 1954, he answered the call to ministry and the Dentlers – along with their two children and a third on the way -- moved to Lexington, KY, to attend the College of the Bible, now known as Lexington Theological Seminary.

While a student in the late 1950s, he served First Christian Church of Mays Lick and then was invited by the elders of the Disciples African-American Mays Lick congregation to be their Sunday preacher. The elders noted how the Dentler children had invited the black children to play with them, and how the Dentlers walked through the neighborhood, greeting everyone.

He graduated in 1957 with honors. While serving as pastor of Central Christian Church in Jacksonville, FL, in 1961, Rev. Dentler was called to join the Indianapolis, IN, staff of Dr. Gaines Cook, executive secretary of the International Convention of the Christian Churches – the forerunner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). With his experience in hotel management and business, he was put in charge of the annual meetings, which had an attendance of 10,000 Christians from across the church.

Rev. Dentler was soon assigned to the Council of Agencies, which was composed of representatives of the various agencies reporting directly or indirectly to the International Convention. This assignment provided him with the opportunity to become well acquainted with the leaders of the denomination and to provide leadership and influence among them.

Asked by Dr. A. Dale Fiers to be his deputy general minister in 1968 following the Disciples' restructure, Rev. Dentler continued to oversee General Assemblies and a wide array of regional meetings and gatherings of the General Board, Administrative Committee and other task groups. In all, he supervised 17 General Assemblies and International Conventions..

From 1975 until his retirement, he was chair of the Week of Compassion Committee, the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

He also served on the board of Heifer International, whose mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. Heifer is

most well-known for its distribution of more than 30 kinds of animals to communities around the world.

Because of his passion for these ministries, Rev. Dentler was asked to preach at the General Assembly in San Antonio in 1975. It was and remains one of the finest sermons delivered at the Assembly. Most of the church had only seen Rev. Dentler as the meeting planner but that evening in worship at the General Assembly exposed him as a passionate spokesman for the Gospel and especially for the ministries represented in Week of Compassion and Heifer International.

## **Henrietta Marshall Edwards**

Des Moines, IA -- Going Home services for Henrietta Marshall Edwards were held at First Christian Church, May 25, 2013. This 85-year-old lifelong Disciple, grew up in Mississippi and later attended Southern Christian Institute. Her journey landed her in Indianapolis, IN, where she continued her education at Butler University.

In the mid-50's Henrietta had gained employment at Missions Building and had become an active member of Second Christian Church. It was during this period she married Alfred Henry Edwards and they moved to Des Moines. She and Alfred joined First Christian Church and became active in not only First Christian but also the Upper Midwest Region.

Mrs. Edwards is survived by three (3) sons; Alfred, William and Tyrone and two (2) grandchildren.

## **ROBBIE NATHAN CHISHOLM**

A Tribute to Oldtimers' Grapevine Board Member: Robbie Nathan Chisholm by Oscar Haynes

Robbie was born on December 21, 1919 in North Garden, Virginia to Eddy Martin Chisholm and Robbie Nicholas Chisholm. This Virginia native lived his entire life in service to others. I admit this 97-year-old friend made several attempts to capture the width and breadth of his life, which is difficult, because our friendship began in the early 50's and never waned until the day he died. He was always there for me.

On April 16, 2013, Robbie returned home to God after

a lengthy illness. His life was celebrated May 18 at the Interfaith Chapel in Leisure World where he and his beloved wife of seventy-three (73) years resided before Robbie was moved to an assisted care center. The service was lead by Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) Perry, Leisure World Interfaith Chapel, chaplain, Silver Spring, MD. Also participating was Robbie's former pastor, Rev. Ben Manning. He was beautifully eulogized by his wife, Louada Chisholm and pastor, Rev. John Powell, (Heritage Christian Church, Silver Spring, MD).

"Seventy-three years with My Husband-My Best Friend" were words warmly uttered by Louada as she gave a capacity crowd a glimpse of the Robbie who stole her heart and kept it for seven decades. They were inseparable. The crowd was held spell-bound for the next seventeen minutes as she excitedly shared how this country girl from Indiana met this city boy from Virginia and from here it was a beautiful Love Story. Louada was so caught-up in the seventy-three (73) years she and Robbie had shared that her enthusiasm lifted the Memorial Service crowd from serenity to awe as her story created so much excitement and joy.

There was controlled laughter as Louada shared the story of their wedding. "On August 2, 1938, my 19th birthday, he called to ask me to meet him on the first floor of Garfinkel's Department Store, Washington, DC. This was important because I worked on the eighth floor but I obediently met him there where he presented me with a diamond ring in the presence of his boss and girls in the department I worked with. I assumed with a diamond on my finger we were engaged, but he told our friends it really was my birthday gift. But when I announced our engagement he felt sorry for me and we were married October 14, 1939".

"Terry, our one and only, was born January 29, 1947. At age five (5) he was stricken with polio and we moved to Virginia to be near my sister who was a 'stay at home Mom'. She took Terry for his physical therapy treatments until he was released". In every life some rain must fall. But Louada revealed how on March 18, 1956, Robbie "gave his good confession of faith and was immediately baptized. He was quickly put to work as Usher, then Deacon and Elder. Robbie served in regional church positions which eventually

led to him giving several years on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In conclusion, this beautiful bride shared the joys she and Robbie shared traveling abroad in the later years: They traveled to: Canada, Mexico; Alaskan Cruise and Scotland, where they were married a second time by a Scotsman in kilts. Her stories recalled with enthusiasm her retirement in 1974, after 29 years with the Federal Government. How they sold their beautiful house in McLean, VA and moved into their house on Hyde Park Drive in Leisure World, Silver Spring, MD. "In 1975, we placed our membership at Heritage Christian Church, and blessed to be a part of such a wonderful Church family. We were blessed to have 73+ married years. I will miss him but I am glad he is no longer suffering, but at peace with our Heavenly Father."

In his homily, Rev. John Powell, acknowledged knowing Robbie for over 30 years not only as his Pastor but through the life he lived outside of the church as well as in the church. He assured Louada that Robbie knew what he was doing when he gave her the diamond ring, he may have said it was a birthday present but he knew it was the beginning of a blessed marriage. "I know I am a well-trained clergyman, but rarely did he discuss scriptures with me, it was always about people, not about Trinitarian Doctrine. Robbie lived the love of Christ."

"Robbie joined Kiwanis Club not to mix with buddies but to serve. He was committed to changing the world, one child, one community at a time. He believed in the mission of Bethany House, a senior residence in Rockville, MD. He served because he knew the important work the board was providing to all people. Robbie knew that the love of Jesus was big enough to be inclusive of all and exclusive of none. Robbie has gone to do work in a better place and we have work to do here. When someone walks into a room we occupy, we have to warm it up with a smile, the attentiveness, the compassion that we received from Robbie."

In addition to the many religious and community boards and committees Robbie served on he also served with the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter Board. During his tenure he was Secretary/Treasurer

and in the early years, along with a few others pledged gifts every issue to sustain this quarterly publication which has a cost-free subscription policy. This newsletter survives on the policy of the founding Editor/Manager, Dr. William "Bill" Fox, that it be a free publication and that the contributing writers provide quality articles "pro bono".

In addition to his wife Louada, Robbie is survived by a son, his son Terry Chisholm and daughter-in-law, Dee of Moneta, VA; his grandchildren Kimberley and Rob Molthen, Courtney and Mark Warren, and Lindsay and John Coleman; and his 10 great-grandchildren Zachary, Nicholas, Jacob, Haley, Emma, Owen, Benjamin, Abigail, Reese and William.

Memorial gifts may be made to: Montgomery Hospice Casey House, 6001 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville, MD, 20855 and Heritage Christian Church, 15250 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, 20905

### **Thank You For Your Precious Gifts**

Nancy Ash, Jefferson City, MO; Eula Fain, Washington, DC; Carl Baldon, Sr., Louisville, KY; Wayne & Virginia Bell, Lexington, KY; William C & Mary Helen Blackwell, Harrisonburg, VA; Betty Jo Brown, Houston, TX; Betty Carter, St. Louis, MO; Louada Chisholm, Silver Spring, MD; Michael & Suanne Yarbrough, Fraser, CO; Harold & Evelyn Watkins, Indianapolis, IN; David & Dale Shreeves, Martinsburg, WV; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Squire, Hyattsville, MD; Lorraine Pitman, Indianapolis, IN; Marjorie C Parker, Indianapolis, IN; Bill & Pat Nottingham, Highlands Ranch, CO; Ernest & Janice Newborn, Claremont, CA; Jean Muir, Great Falls, MT; Ovara O Miller, Kansas City, MO; Ralph & Jean Keller, Raymore, MO; Roxane Hughes, Reston, VA; Lois Hodrick, Somerville, TX; Ruth Hobbs, Clinton, MS; Donald K & Charisse Gillette, Lexington, KY; Beverly Dickason, Kansas City, MO; Shirley Compton, Louisville, KY

**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE** is a free print and electronic ministry published four times a year through tax exempt donations. The ministry networks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seasoned pilgrims by: 1) enhancement of communication and sharing of mutual experiences; 2) conveying a holistic view of aging and health; 3) being an advocate for seniors to become a supportive, loving and caring community; 4) giving honor and dignity to the lives of those included in "For Whom The Bell Tolls"; and 5) highlighting opportunities for the maintenance of a high quality life style and service in retirement. We are enabled by servants ordered as Board of Directors, administration and editorial staff.

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# The Oldtimers' GRAPEVINE

August - December, 2013

Volume 22, Issue 3 & 4

## HANDS ON MISSION CONTINUES

What is known as Hands On Mission at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX continues to serve the college. It was initiated in the mid 1990's by Dr. William K. Fox, a devoted Disciples Minister/Pastor for years during his lifetime, with assistance from Mrs. Lela Hinchens Jackson, a long time Jarvis staff member initially appointed to facilitate the project and Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, former Jarvis president. Again this

year the Disciples Men's Ministry of Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship (TCMF) led a group of volunteers to Hands on Mission on the college campus. This project was conceived to help the college continue to maintain the facilities and grounds as well as its mission of educating students who may not have the same opportunities at other institutions.



Though they have gone through some very lean years with many financial challenges, Jarvis is still doing a great job educating its' student. So, on May 23- 25, 2013, 25 dorm rooms in the Sebetha Jenkins Living and Learning Center were painted to provide some assistance and save the college funds. Thirteen people volunteered to paint and 16 individuals and churches donated funds to support the project. Donations were received from Jarvis supporters from as far as St. Louis Missouri. Jarvis College Christian Church and TCMF supplied three delicious meals each day for the workers. There were 3 ladies (members of the church) preparing the meals each day. They captured the hearts of the volunteers with their special recipes and the presentation of the food.

Elder Bobby Williams, TCMF Disciples Men President/Mission Director, (not a Jarvis graduate but a life-long DOC) said, "I am very pleased with the support we received and I will work even harder to make sure the project continues". Mrs. Lela Jackson and William Smith, both Jarvisites, have promised to do the same. Plans are already in the works for two projects this year, one in December and one in May or June. Anyone interested in assisting with this mission project may contact us at:

Bobby Williams – [bwilliams024@att.net](mailto:bwilliams024@att.net) or

William Smith – [smithw@geusnet.com](mailto:smithw@geusnet.com) or

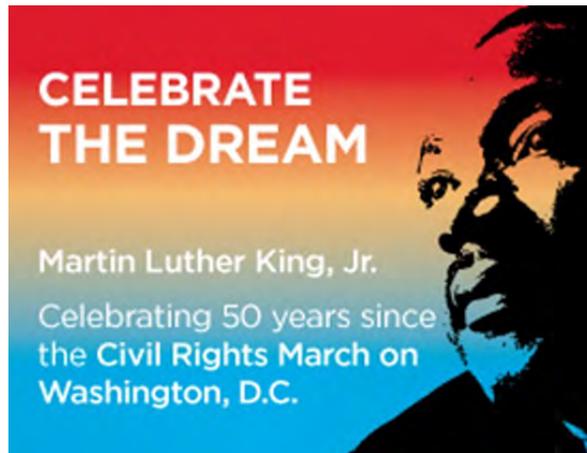
Lela Jackson - [hinchenshats@gmail.com](mailto:hinchenshats@gmail.com).

## VIDEO HONORING MLK'S 'DREAM' SPEECH AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD

The SALT Project, Christian Theological Seminary and WFYI (Indianapolis Public Broadcasting Station) have collaborated to offer a free five-minute video celebrating the historic "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for this, the 50th anniversary of its delivery Aug. 28. The video features CTS faculty and others delivering the text of the end of Dr. King's speech.

The film's producer, Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton of the SALT Project, hopes this film will be shared and viewed across the nation in schools, community gatherings, and congregations of all faiths. She said about the film, "We wanted to create a fresh and provocative short film to help inspire communities to ask the question: how far have

we come on the journey to social justice and what must be done to achieve the dream King so eloquently articulated in 1963?"



"To be sure," said Rev. Allan Boesak, one of South Africa's leading voices against the country's policy of apartheid, "Dr. King's vision and passion captured the global imagination but we cannot do justice to his memory unless we recommit ourselves anew to the world he so eloquently envisioned. It is our hope that this summer, individuals and communities around the world will watch this film, remember a young preacher from the south who changed the world, and be challenged once again to see that 'injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'"

we come on the journey to social justice and what must be done to achieve the dream King so eloquently articulated in 1963?"

## Condoleezza Rice at Light of the World



On September 19<sup>th</sup> "The Mind Trust", an organization committed to educational equity, sponsored a conversation at Light of the World Christian Church with former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice. The event was enabled by Al and Kathy Hubbard, Light of the World Christian

Church, 100 Black Men, Christian Theological Seminary, The Expectations Project, The Friedman Foundation, Greater Indianapolis NAACP, Indiana Charter Schools Association, Indianapolis Public Schools Education C Foundation, Indianapolis Urban League, La

Plaza, Lacy Leadership Association, UNCF, and United way of Central Indiana.

Dr. Rice has been a passionate advocate for all children, regardless of circumstances, to have access to the world class educational opportunities. After having mesmerized the totally packed 2,000 seat sanctuary, Dr. Rice fielded questions moderated by Indianapolis' WTLC radio host, Amos Brown.

As Dr. Rice shared the requirements she has of the students she teaches at Stanford University her commitments take on reality. She requires them to write a paper each week which she personally evaluates. She tells the students that she isn't interested in what they think, how they feel or even what they believe. She requires her students to be able to develop and sustain an argument, bringing those observations to a conclusion growing out of the argument. Education in her eyes must enable all students to function through mastery of language and communication skills to be able to manage their environments.

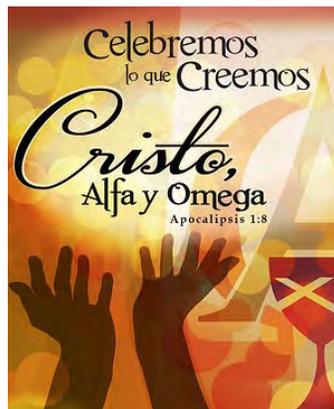
## Not too early to plan for next summer

There is a nip in the air and the holidays are just around the corner, but it isn't too early to start planning time to be with your Disciple sisters and brothers next summer. Disciples Women have opened registration for Quadrennial in June. National Convocation has just opened registration for the Biennial Session in

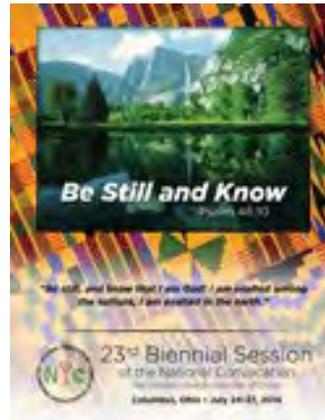
July and the Central Office for Hispanic Ministries and North American Pacific/Asian Disciples are gearing up for their gatherings in July and August respectively. You can get time and place details on their websites.



Disciples Women Assembly  
Marriott Marquis  
Atlanta, Ga  
June 25-29



Hispanic and Bilingual Asamblea  
Casa d'Oracion  
San Diego, Calif.  
July 16-20



National Convocation  
23rd Biennial Session  
Crowne Plaza Columbus North,  
Columbus, Ohio  
July 24-27



North American Pacific/Asian  
Disciples Convocation  
University of Chicago Disciple  
Divinity House  
Chicago, Ill.  
Aug. 6-9

## Moderator Elect



The Administrative Committee of the General Board met in Indianapolis Oct. 25 and 26, 2013 with the new class of moderators and members. Included in the work of the group was approving the General Nominating Committee's selection of Rev. Seung Un (Paul) Tche, pastor of White Oak

Pond Church in Richmond, Ky., as moderator-elect. The new position was included as part of the changes to The Design, approved at the Orlando Assembly. Tche will serve as moderator of the General Assembly from 2015-2017.

The Governance Committee of the General Board recommended the change based on feed back from several recent moderators. The change allows for more con-

tinuity and familiarity with issues on the part of the incoming moderator.

Meeting as the board of the Office of General Minister and President, the Administrative Committee, led by Moderator Glen Miles met to discuss action items from the General Assembly, review financial information and budgets, engage the auditors for the 2013 Audit, and other business.

Rev. Dr. Robert Welsh, president of the Council on Christian Unity, met with the Administrative Committee to discuss a proposal regarding the Council on Christian Unity, the General Board and the Office of General Minister and President. The proposal is a cooperative effort seeking to further define the purpose of the General Board in overseeing the mission of the church. The proposal is being sent to the Governance Committee of the General Board to prepare the required standing rule modifications and related

[Continued on Page 6]

## Week of Compassion Responds to Typhoon Haiyan

Amidst incredible devastation in the Philippines, your gifts to Week of Compassion are already making a difference.

According to reports from our partners, more than 670,000 people in the Philippines have been displaced by Typhoon Haiyan; 41,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed; and 11.3 million people in nine regions of the country have been affected.

Executive Director Amy Gopp names the contributions of Disciples an absolutely essential part of the relief effort. "While the devastation makes us yearn to do something concrete like collect canned food or used clothing, the most efficient way to help -- the best way to truly live out the Gospel mandate to stand with the least of these, the most vulnerable, the most impacted -- is through your monetary gifts," she said.

"Through the United Church of Christ in The Philippines (UCCP), the ACT Alliance, and Church World Service, the body of Christ is already serving those in need. We are part of an impactful, global response that brings hope and healing, thanks to the faith, commitment, and generosity of Disciples across North America. It's times like these when we see most clearly Disciples compassion in action."

Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) uses a model of partnership to leverage resources in the most efficient way possible.



### Week of Compassion executive director to join Church World Service

It is with joy and sadness that Week of Compassion announces that The Reverend Amy Gopp will join Church World Service Global (CWS) as Director of Member Relations and Pastoral Care in January 2014.

As Executive Director of Week of Compassion, Amy has been a passionate advocate for those displaced by disasters, made refugees by violent conflict, and those working for economic empowerment and development in their communities. Her work with multiple partner organizations and with countless Disciples congregations and ministries has had significant impact during her tenure at Week of Compassion.



## Wray to serve as interim director



A familiar face will be serving as an interim executive director for Week of Compassion when current Executive Director Amy Rev. Amy Gopp assumes her new position with Church World Service. Rev. Johnny Wray, who served as administrative director of WoC from 1992 to 2008, will step into the interim

position as the Committee on Week of Compassion begins the search process. Recently Wray has done contract and interim ministry for congregations in Tennessee and Mississippi and worked part time on WoC's endowment program since 2011.

"While I regretted to learn of Amy's leaving Week of Compassion, I am excited for her in her new position with Disciples long time relief and development partner Church World Service and I'm looking forward to working with Brandon (Gilvin), Dawn (Barnes), the Committee on Week of Compassion and all our congregations across the whole church during this interim period to help keep WoC's witness and work in the world strong and vital."

Wray and his wife Deb live on their small farm in Mississippi where they raise grass-fed beef and work closely with other small scale, organic farmers.

## Who do we say that we are?

All too often Disciples start out describing themselves by who we are not. You've probably done it yourself ... we don't baptize babies....we don't say the Apostle's Creed...we don't - well, you can fill in the blank. In an effort to give shape and words to who we are as Disciples, the 21st Century Visioning team came up with a Disciples identity statement that the General Board adopted in 2009. Hopefully you've seen it around ... "We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."

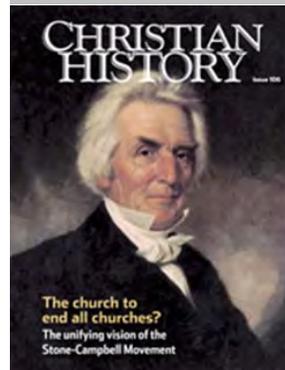
The Council on Christian Unity (CCU) teamed up with Communication Ministries (CM) to flesh out just what that identity statement means in positive terms.

CCU produced videos and a group study guide based on four key words - movement, wholeness, table and welcome - that were introduced at the General Assembly in Orlando. CM put together an individual study guide for pastors and others to use in modules as "homework" for member classes or other purposes. In addition, there is a growing list of preaching resources and "telling" resources available on the website. Included are sample layouts for billboards, advertisements and websites.

Both CCU and CM are looking forward to adding to the resources available. If you have ideas for additions or would like a presentation for a regional gathering, e-mail the communications staff.



## And if history is your thing...



The next edition of the journal of the Christian History Institute is all about the Stone-Campbell movement - 48 pages of story and images. If you sign up by Aug. 12 online you can have a physical copy delivered in September. Donations requested but not required. The magazine will be available online at no charge in September.

If that makes you want to know more, check out the Stone-Campbell Movement from our own Chalice Press, available in print and e-book formats.

## REFLECTIONS, by Ron Deggs

I do not think we pay enough attention in most of our congregations and in society at large about old age, yet it is a sea of gray all about us. With all of the hoopla about youth and young adults, and I do not want to take any 'hoop' away from the 'la,' I think the scales of balance need to focus on the ministry we provide to those challenged by age.

Did you know that Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel lying on his back on a scaffold when almost 90? Paderewski at 79 played the piano with gusto? At 88 John Wesley preached every day? Tennyson, when 83, wrote: "Crossing the Bar"? Booth Tarkington wrote 16 novels after 60, some of them when he was almost totally blind? Benjamin Franklin went to France in the service of his country when 78, and wrote his autobiography when over 80?

Imagine, if you will, what God has in store for you as you are either running away from old age, staring old age in the eyes, or in the very midst of its grip. Maybe there are some accomplishments waiting to be done. Maybe there is some unfinished business that needs finishing.

Whatever the case may be, here are three gems to guide you in old age:

He who dwells in the past grows old before his time.  
She who lives in the future remains young forever.  
We justify our existence not by adding years to our lives, but by adding life to our years.

As Browning has written:

"Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be,

The last of life, for which the first was made:

Our times are in [God's] hand

Who saith, 'A whole I planned,

Youth shows but half;

Trust God; see all nor be afraid!'"

Browning's words have always been some of my favorite. However, my confidence in them was shaken when I learned that he was only 28 years old when he

wrote them. Then again, I thought, maybe some 28's have a powerful view of that 'other half.'

Such gems stand on my bookshelf in one of my favorite reference works, Familiar Quotations, by John Bartlett. This is an excellent work that should be leveraged by our pastors and congregational leaders to salt and pepper sermons, Bible Studies, and presentations of all kinds.

I invite you to give some consideration as to how you minister to those living in the second half of their lives. You might just find a whole new way to transform the life of your congregation.

Second half-ly yours,  
Ron Degges



[Continued from Page 3]

business items for the February 2014 meeting.

In addition the committee met on behalf of the General Board to accept the nomination of Tche, discuss General Board recommendations about resourcing the executive search process on issues of diversity, and review the process by which organizations become recognized ministry partners. Work was done in preparation for the 2014 General Board meeting coming in February, and next steps were identified for the items for research and reflection from the Orlando assembly. The group also reflected on resolution and nominating processes.

## LEXINGTON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BLESSES NEW CAMPUS



Lexington Theological Seminary has a new campus home at Lexington Green Complex. The property at 230 Lexington Green Circle has more than 16,000 square feet of space, which includes classrooms, a library, administrative offices on the 3rd floor, and fellowship and worship space on the 5th floor.

"We believe this space better meets the current needs of the Seminary as we assess our future facility needs, whether that be a free-standing campus space or an existing facility such as this one," said Board of Trustees Chairman Gary Kidwell.

The new location is within 4 miles of the 63-year-old campus at 631 S. Limestone, which the University of Kentucky purchased June 28 as the Seminary

board sought to better meet the education model designed for the changing demographics of the student population.

The Lexington Theological Seminary family gathered Friday, Nov. 15, to bless the 631 S. Limestone campus and prepare to embark on the next chapter in the Seminary's story at Lexington Green Circle. The Seminary's living past presidents joined President Charisse L. Gillett, alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the Seminary in a service of blessing in the Sanders Chapel and gathered one last time in the fellowship hall for a reception and celebration of the ongoing ministry and mission of the Seminary. Updates about the transformation, as they are available, are available here: <http://www.lextheo.edu/transformation/>

### COMPASSION CORNER

By Jimmy Mohler

#### *Gold Medalists*

Tradition has us commemorating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries as "golden." So it is fitting that Congressional Gold Medals were recently awarded to Addie May Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their deaths.

Sadly these girls did not get to stand at a podium with tears of joy running down their cheeks as they heard our national anthem. They never had the opportunity to prove themselves as world class athletes, or life-saving doctors, or loving wives and mothers. Instead their posthumous gold medals recognize the girls as martyrs to a cause – liberty and justice for all.

What did Addie and Denise and Carole and Cynthia do? They went to church. Denise was 11. The

other three were 14. It is likely that the worshipers that Sunday at their Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, were filled with hope, buoyed by the “I Have a Dream” speech that civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had delivered just 18 days before the bomb exploded at that church on that morning. That bomb killed Addie and Denise and Carole and Cynthia and injured many others arriving for Sunday School. Given the evidence and testimony, it is likely that the American terrorists who planted that bomb at Sixteenth Street Baptist were in their own church that morning. Imagine, Christians killing Christians, with complete disregard for the Redeemer’s declaration of the greatest commandment.

Dr. King attended the joint funeral for Addie, Denise and Cynthia, and he was visibly shaken. He declared “Life is hard, at times as hard as crucible steel.” Yet not even this unspeakable tragedy shook Dr. King’s non-violent resolve. Nor did it shake his dream of “liberty and justice for all.” He would today be celebrating many of the racial harmony achievements of the past half-century. He would also be mourning that racism still spurs violence and bias. The movement continues. The dream is still alive.

In every day, each of us can honor these four gold medalists, Dr. King and others of God’s children martyred for the cause of a just and peaceful world. We can tutor a child. 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, “MARCH ON!”

## POET’S CORNER

### ONE CHILD’S PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus,  
I’m just a child but even tho I’m little  
I pray all the while.  
I see and hear some gosh awful things;  
Mom says this is what hate and  
Ignorance brings.  
So many are angry  
Guess cause they don’t understand.  
Their thoughts flow from  
others’ views  
much like opening a can.  
People criticize and complain  
Saying things they don’t really know  
It all boils down to what someone said,  
And so  
Mom says “even tho it’s 2013  
many still can’t get along.”  
But I’ll never stop praying and hoping  
there can one day be  
hearts only filled with Christ like love  
for your love,  
**Jesus, is the  
KEY.  
AMEN**

May Reed

Written Sat.,  
Nov. 16, 2013



## The Last Word (Death is Imminent)

By Rev. Dr. Willie K. Crum, Jr.



Pastors and chaplains are called to comfort family members when there is a death or an emergency event. Hopefully, these chaplains and pastors have had clinical pastoral education, which gives us some sense of approach with God's grace in action.

Providing spiritual comfort to family members can be stressful because there are usually unresolved issues surfacing at the same time, between members of the deceased person's family as well as other families that may be involved emotionally and/or financially. Also, it can be a stressful experience when it is unexpected. God's purpose for pastors/chaplains is to help everyone to love the grace of God, who does not want any person to be defeated by sin but that all shall find fulfillment.

Family members are confused and hurting because they are not prepared for this death. How do we get these individuals on the right track? Bringing God's word will help the family if they are willing to accept it. After you have experienced a few of these crisis events, you feel that something should be done to get people at a better stage to accept and be able to cope with the loss of their loved one. As I reflect on my own experience of the death of a loved one, I remember my own failure to connect with the Lord's grace that would have put me on the right path to comfort and a sense of peace within. It is the creative work of the Holy Spirit which brings all the grace of God to bear in and through the Word. Faith is a gift from our Lord (2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 10:17). Our path is not certain. But we do know that if we put our trust in Him, we will be guided one step at a time.

There is a mystique with some cultures, customs and rites that if you talk about death, you will die before your time. This is not true; the truth is you are going to die whether you talk about death or not. In fact, it is healthy to talk about death. Mankind carries around

the burden of sin and guilt, not knowing what to do or where to turn (2 Timothy 1:7). God keeps our minds clear and focused, free of panic and anxiety. It has been said many times that God reminds us that we have nothing to fear as long as we have God at our side (John 14:1-4).

My co-worker came to my office one day and asked, "Would you teach your congregation about pre-funeral arrangements, dying and death, and how you would? Especially when you are not comfortable with your own mortality." My co-worker does not stand alone with these feelings of dying and death. I turned and said, "I too have uncomfortable feelings about my mortality." That day we agreed to talk about death more with each other until we were comfortable to share with others.

Within weeks later, my fundraising chairperson came to my office to share with me that he has placed our organization in his will. How did I react? I did not know how, because this is something that I am not comfortable with -- somebody telling me that he or she is dying and that they will be adding me to their will. In my mind, do I say thanks or do I say, "I don't want to see you leaving this world"? After experiencing these two above situations, I felt that I needed to seek God's grace and training to help me to understand the unresolved feelings that I have in reference to my mortality or making pre-funeral arrangements.

I thought of these words from the scriptures: "Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God." (Exodus 3:6 NIV). Are we afraid of facing God or of facing our unresolved personal issues? I seek God's strength to overcome these unresolved feelings about talking about death. In order to help others, we first must help ourselves and our families to understand us as their loved ones.

My answer to my co-worker is, "Yes, we do need to teach and preach about death to our congregations. But first we need help for ourselves, in order to know how to teach and preach about death to our congregations." We both got the blessing and training that we needed. Clinical pastoral education gave us the education that we needed to minister to others. These are the steps that we gave our congregations.

First, we entered into discussions with our congregations about the training that we felt that the church needed. This training is about dying, death and pre-arranging our funeral plans. We put our training into action. Step one, share scriptures with our congregations about dying and death that they can read and understand. Add the importance of pre-arranging funeral plans to help our families to cope better during the time of bereavement. Taking care of these plans in advance enables the family to make better decisions under distress. Furthermore, it brings peace, not tension, as well as removing feelings of anxiety, embarrassment and guilt. Pre-arranging funeral plans gives your family positive reappraisal (like finding a new faith). What greater blessing can we have than when we are able to carry out our loved ones' last wishes? By taking care of these arrangements, you give your loved ones time to grieve appropriately (Romans 8:16-17, 28).

How can we help people to understand that death is imminent? Based on the scriptures, we need to understand that God has planned a place for us in heaven. Now, it is up to us to pre-arrange for our earthly funeral services for our loved ones to celebrate with the decisions that we made for them to carry out on our behalf (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

If faith is part of your life, express it in ways that seem appropriate to you. Allow yourself to be around people who understand and support your religious beliefs. Express your grief openly with your family, so they will understand you. If a pastor or chaplain is not available, find someone to talk with who won't be critical of whatever thoughts or feelings you need to explore. I find that the following scriptures can be used to help others with understanding God's purpose for life and death: 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, John 11:23-26, and 1 Corinthians 15:54-57.

It was a challenge to get people to talk about pre-arranging their funeral plans; however, it brought about good feelings to share and to process for efforts. I am unable to share all the highlights, only a few. It was helpful and uncomfortable as well, but people did find it in good spirit. We trust that God will help us to become mature and complete, as we focus not on the situation but on His grace. When hardships come, those are the most difficult times because we want everything to be wrapped up and resolved. In spite of these situations, God will help us in dark hours to seek peace and trust, and He said, "I will never leave you

or nor forsake you." Ignoring your grief won't make it go away; talking about it often makes you feel better. When you share your grief outside yourself, healing occurs. Pre-arranging our funeral plans is a positive approach that will help us to heal spiritually, physically and mentally. God's blessings and peace, Amen!

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A man is stumbling through the woods totally drunk when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. The drunk walks into the water and subsequently bumps into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of booze. Whereupon he asks the drunk, 'Are you ready to find Jesus?'

'Yes I am' replies the drunk, so the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the river. He pulls him up and asks the drunk, 'Brother, have you found Jesus?'

The drunk replies, 'No, I haven't.'

The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him into the water again, but for a bit longer this time. He pulls him out of the water and asks again, 'Have you found Jesus, my brother?'

The drunk again answers, 'No, I have not found Jesus.'

By this time the preacher is at his wits end so he dunks the drunk in the water again, but this time he holds him down for about 30 seconds. When the drunk begins kicking his arms and legs, the preacher pulls him up. The preacher asks the drunk again, 'For the love of God, have you found Jesus?'

The drunk wipes his eyes and catches his breath and says to the preacher, 'Are you sure this is where he fell in?'

## Reverend Derrick L. Perkins, Sr. Celebrates Six Years at Centennial Christian Church

By Jennifer H. Randle

The members of Centennial Christian Church celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Derrick L. Perkins, Sr. and First Lady Bridget Perkins, with a weekend full of fellowship, outreach and thanksgiving throughout morning and afternoon worship services on Sunday, November 3, 2013. The anniversary theme was, “His



Journey Con-

tinues: Servant, Pastor and Shepard.”

Anniversary events began Friday night with Family Fun Night. Members and friends enjoyed a delicious meal, fun and games like “Minute to Win It”, Bible Trivia Bingo, “Who Dat Baby” photo contest and the “Showtime at Centennial” performance by our talented members. The evening promised food, fun and fellowship and all who attended were definitely not disappointed.

Pastor Perkins’ mission as a servant was witnessed on Saturday, when Centennialites donated and delivered blankets and bedding to the New Life Evangelistic Center to support the homeless efforts of St. Louis and Reverend Larry Rice. The cold St. Louis winters were made a little warmer by the outpouring of generosity of the Centennial family.

The Sunday morning service was kicked off with musical tributes by the Praise



Team, men’s vocal group “The Arry’s”, and the Centennial Mass Choir under the direction of Ryan Johnston and Larry Kent. The Lighthouse Dancers performed a special praise dance choreographed by and dedicated to her parents by Aliyah Perkins.

Rev. Anthony McCaa, M.T.S., who founded “The New Church”, a church focused on building individual character, sharing love and empowering communities, rendered a soul-stirring sermon to Centennial during the morning service while Reverend Dr. Donald McNeil and members of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church Choir joined him in bringing congratulatory greetings, glorious gospel voices and the sprit-filled message from their congregation in the afternoon.

The members of Centennial Christian Church were truly blessed when Reverend Derrick L. Perkins answered the call to lead the flock six years ago and are looking forward to many more years by this dynamic role model, servant and teacher. Reverend Perkins reflects and embodies the scripture he selected for this anniversary; 1Peter 5:2; “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve.”

Thank you and Congratulations Pastor Perkins!

## The Oldtimers’ Grapevine Update

Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. was featured in the Pension Fund Member Spotlight article in the April-July 2013 issue of *The Oldtimers’ Grapevine*. We mentioned his daughter, Karen Elizabeth Hylton in the article and would now like to mention his son, Samuel W. Hylton, III. He is married to Kristen and they are blessed with three children: Chastity, who is a sophomore at Texas Southern University in Houston; Sedric, who is on his way to the University of North Texas in Denton; and Chelsea, who is a sophomore in high school. In preparing this update, Rev. Hylton mentioned his niece, Ethel “Ellie” Hylton, who recently graduated with a degree in sociology from Harvard College, with the highest grade point average. Her parents Keith and Maria Hylton are Harvard grads and both teach law at Boston University.

## A Letter From The Board President



*The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*

Psalm 126:3 (NIV)

Beloved Grapevine Readers,

The year 2013 marks a watershed in the life of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine*. As we started the year, with sadness, joy, and much gratitude we said goodbye to Oscar Haynes, Publisher/Editor who served our Newsletter for ten years. With joy, gratitude, and much expectancy we welcomed John R. Foulkes as our new Publisher/Editor and we rejoiced to introduce him to you in his first issue of the year. What a leadership succession from founder William K. Fox, to Oscar,

and then to John. We are truly blessed and our hearts are filled with joy...

As good as that first issue was: the second Grapevine issue was truly a blessing. Although I was unable to attend General Assembly, the comprehensive coverage of this event made me feel like "I was there". I was deeply touched by our new contributing editor's, Dr. Willie K. Crum, article on pastoral care as it relates to loss. We live in a society that does not like to talk about death and in some ways the church's focus on "celebration of life" when a person passes on does not always allow us to talk about and respond to the deep sense of loss we feel when a beloved person dies. Thanks to you Dr. Crum for your informative and thought provoking article about grief. We welcome you to the Grapevine family and look forward to more. The Lord has truly done great things for us through our new and continuing contributing editors. It is my hope that you feel joy, hope, pride, as well as a sense of inclusion as you read and re-read this historic issue.

Although typically we produce four issues annually, as we identified and overcame the challenges of change and transition, we concluded that one more power packed issue would suffice for 2013. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth [and] ... the light of the world. (Matthew 5: 13a, 14a) Our goal for the Grapevine is that we add "flavor" to your life and that we live up to the words of our savior as stated in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven". As you read our final issue of the year, it is our hope that you will recognize the many great things the Lord has done for us through the ministry of the *Grapevine*, and that your hearts will overflow with the joy of the season!!

Your sister in Christ

Norma Ellington-Twitty, Ph.D.

## COMPASSION CORNER

By Jimmy Mohler

### *Still Seeking Freedom*

Disciples Women have led the way for so many compassionate causes. As their Quadrennial approaches in 2014 I lift up their latest Social Action Project: "Human Trafficking - Breaking the chains of modern-day slavery." We learn from the Disciples Women website that human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which people, mostly women, very young girls and children, are abducted and/or forced to labor for someone else against their wishes. Often they are deceived into believing the situations will improve their lives, when in reality they are being forced into servitude.

Human trafficking includes buying, selling and moving people from one location to another against their will, and it constitutes a grave violation of human rights. This trafficking occurs in unregulated and unprotected areas all over the world, including the United States of America. Domestic and international criminals have made trafficking, smuggling, and sex slavery a booming businesses that can reach every community throughout our country. Perhaps your churches are actively engaged in combating this modern-day slavery. Great resources are available. Disciples Women have a Power Point presentation on their website, with an accompanying script. There is also a five-session bible study available in both English and Spanish.

We all can educate ourselves about human trafficking, and set goals for participation (monetary and volunteer hours.) We can write letters, volunteer at a local agency, become educated through books and

movies, invite a speaker to our church, and raise funds to support those who are attempting to break these chains of slavery.

***To report suspected human trafficking violations: U.S.A. 1-888-373-7888; Canada 1-800-222-8577; Or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).***

Let us continue to lift up this human tragedy through our stewardship and in our prayers.

***Thank you, OTG readers!***

## Christian Youth Theme Song

(Song to Sam Ward's 1882 tune for "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies")

Written by David Shreeves

Come, Christian Youth,  
all Christian youth!  
Come join with us today.  
To worship God and learn the truth,  
To study and to play.

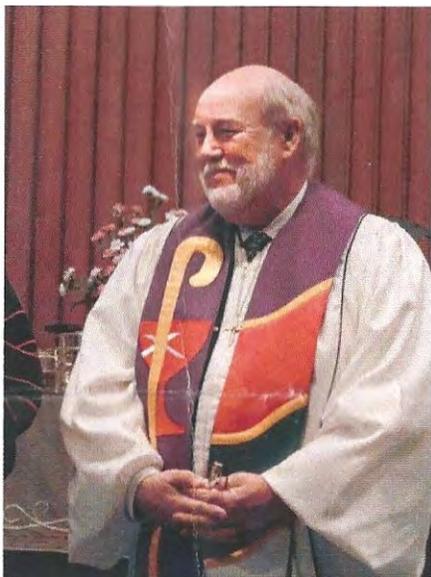
The fun we share,  
the songs we sing,  
Proclaim true friendliness.  
Together hearts and voices ring,  
In simple happiness.

Our fellowship  
by freedom's choice!  
With truth we all agree.  
Because we hear our Master's voice:  
"Come now and follow me."

O Christian youth,  
whom God does bless,  
Win others for your Lord -  
Till all souls kneel  
and tongues confess  
The power of His word!

## LARI GRUBBS RETIRES

The Capital Area Region of the Christian Church Celebrated the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Lari Grubbs on November 10, 2013 as he retired as Regional Minister Christian Church-Capital Area.



Lari has served as the Regional Minister of the Christian Church-Capital Area since January 1, 2003

Lari has held pastorates in Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia, and Iowa. He served for eight years as the Southeast Gateway Area Minister in the

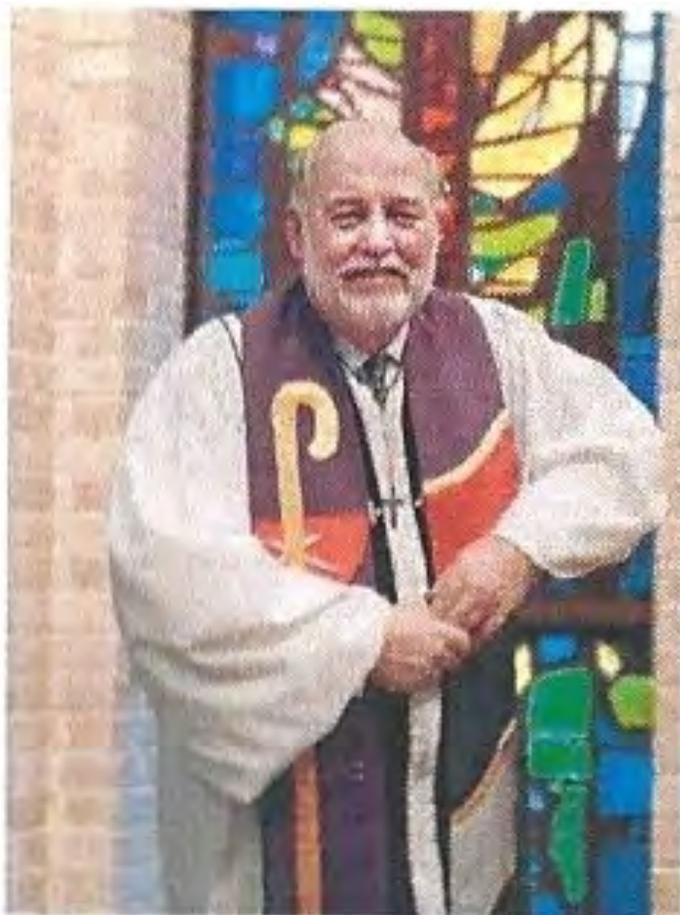
Mid-America Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) before accepting the call to serve as the Regional Minister, Christian Church Capital Area .

Lari served as an adjunct faculty member at Eden Theological Seminary of St. Louis, MO and Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C. where he taught the History and Polity of the Christian Church. Rev. Grubbs has taught American and World History at West Virginia University and taught the History of Religion in America at WVU and Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, IA. He served as Chair of the Cabinet of the Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis. Rev. Grubbs co-chaired the Building Bridges effort of the Interfaith Partnership and the St. Louis Clergy Coalition to end racism in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Rev. Grubbs has served in numerous Ecumenical Councils and ministries over his long and distinguished career. He has authored a number of papers on such diverse topics as the theology and ethics of urban sprawl and guidance for churches on the work

of Pastoral Relations Committees , as well as Ministerial Sabbaticals. He has worked as a carpenter, cook, and a counselor in a Teen Crisis Center. He has also been a volunteer fireman, a police chaplain and served on a county Crime-Stoppers Council.

Rev. Lari Grubbs is a native of St. Louis, growing up in St. Ann, MO where his parents still reside. He is a graduate of Central Methodist University in Fayette, MO and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. Rev. Grubbs holds a B.A. and a M.Div. degree. He has also done 100+ hours of doctoral work including graduate work at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and West Virginia University. Rev. Grubbs is a single parent of two adult children; Jamelle Lingle, who is married to James Lingle, (Peoria, IL) and Rob Grubbs (Crystal City, MO) and has one granddaughter, Kaitlynn Wiley-G rubbs and one grandson, Robbi Ray Grubbs II. He makes his home in Gaithersburg , MD. Lari is a member of the Rockville Christian Church in Rockville, MD.



FRIENDS AT THE RETIRMENT



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

### The Rev. Melvina Symons

Dr. Timothy James wrote, I am sad to announce the passing of the Rev. Melvina Symons, 87 years old, ordained Disciples of Christ pastor in Fresno, California. Rev. Melvina Symons was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday October 13, 2013. Rev. Melvina Symons was the daughter of the Rev. Joseph Blair, Sr. of Warren, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her brother the late Rev. Joseph Blair, Jr. who pastored in Texas and Jefferson City, MO. She was also the sister of the Rev. James Blair who has pastored in Washington, DC; Cleveland, OH; and Kansas City, MO and now resides with his wife Veda in Raytown, MO. She had served in ministry in Warren, OH; Kansas City, MO; Kentucky and Colusa, CA. Rev. Melvina Symons leaves to mourn her passing seven children, a host of grand-children, relatives and friends. Memorial services will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013. Arrangements are being handled by the Jesse Cooley Funeral Home, 1830 South Fruit Street, Fresno, CA.

### Benjamin Harrison Hale Jr.



The beloved father, Benjamin Harrison Hale Jr., of our Board Member, Reverend Dr. Cynthia passed away at the age of 90 on July 24, 2013. “Hicky”, as he was always known, was the

oldest son of Blanche Francis Hale and B. Harrison Hale Sr. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, M. Gwendolyn Hale and B. Frances

Hale; two brothers, T. Henry Hale Sr. and David L. Hale and one grandson, Devin O. Hilton.

Harrison retired from Norfolk Southern Corporation where he first worked on the dining cars and then retired as a clerk in the Law Department. He also owned and operated a catering business. Harrison was a member of Loudon Avenue Christian Church where he served with the Christian Men’s Fellowship. He was a founder of the Altruist Club and the Friends of the Roanoke Symphony.

Harrison is survived by his wife of 61 years, Janice Hylton Hale; three daughters, Reverend Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Jewell C. Hale and Benecia (Clarence) Hale-Hilton; one son, Benjamin (Kim) Hale III. He also leaves four grandchildren, Ethan and Erin Hilton, Gyasi and Jelani Hale; two sisters, Serena Reeves and Barbara Fultz; one goddaughter, Janie T. Ollie and his caregiver, Carlton Simpson.

### Denice Helen Cole

**October 24, 1955 – November 6, 2013**

A Celebration of Life Service for Denice Helen Cole was held on November 11, 2013 at Centennial Christian Church, with Pastor Derrick L. Perkins officiating. Denice was born October 24, 1955 to Reverend Elbert Cole Jr. and Sister Florence B. Cole, who attended the service. She was the oldest child, and only girl of five children. Graduating from Sumner High School in 1974, Denice continued her education and received her BA in English from Tarkio College in 1978.

On October 2, 1982 Denice gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, William E. Cole Thomas. William preceded her in death in 1998.

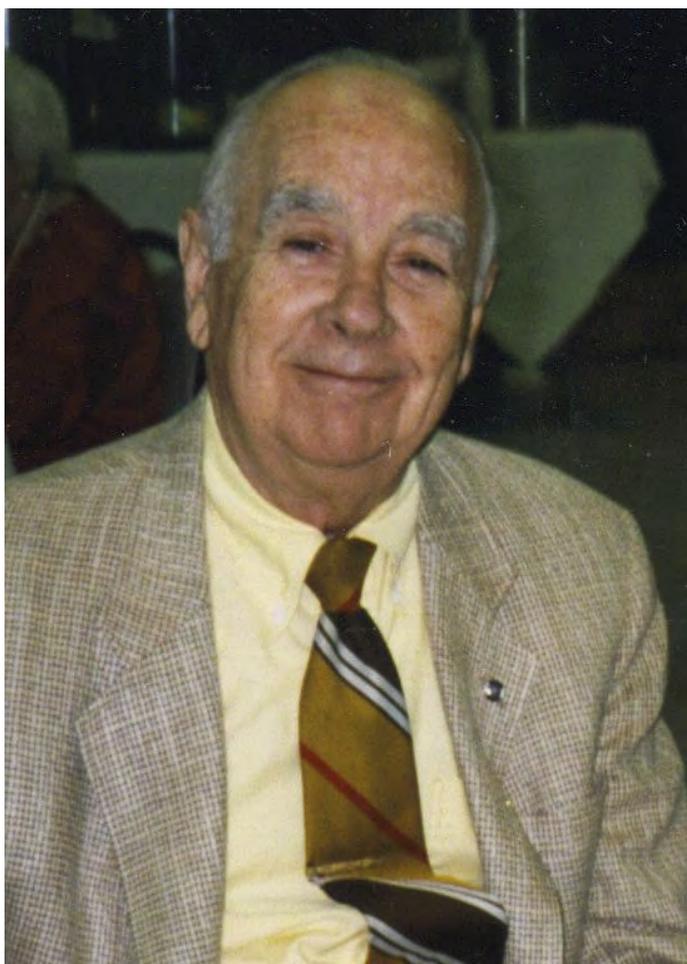
Denice loved children and demonstrated her compassion while teaching for thirty years in the St. Louis Public School System. She was diligent in her work and her quest for education, receiving numerous awards and certifications. Denice received her Master’s in Education from Redding University in 2011.

Her love of God compelled her to be active in her community and church. Denice could be found at meetings of the Board of Aldermen, writing letters to the Mayor or sending congratulatory notes to various dignitaries. Denice was extremely cordial – never meeting a stranger.

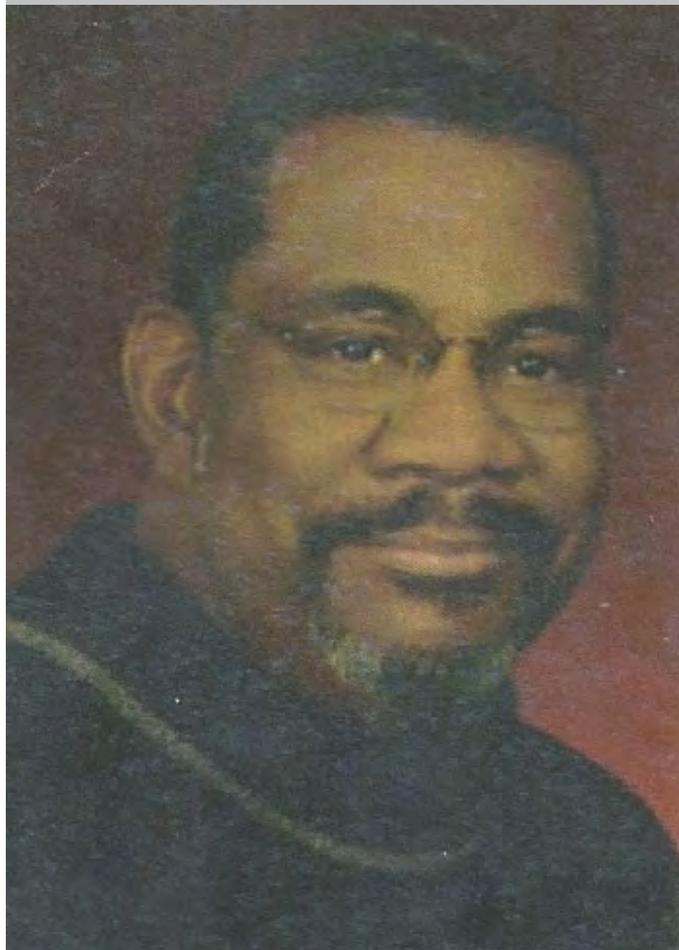
As Denice’s health began to decline, her trust in God never wavered. Seeing his child growing tired, the Lord called Denice home on Wednesday, November 6, 2013, after a hard fought battle.

Denice leaves to cherish her memory: her mother, Florence; brothers – Anthony, Michael, Frederick and Arthur, (Verletta) who provided a moving tribute to his sister at the service; nephew, Justin; nieces – Angelique, Ebony and Chelsey; and a host of other relatives and friends. She will be deeply missed.

### **Robbie Chisholm Beloved OTG Board Member**



### **The Rev. Eugene Randall, II**



Rev. Eugene Randall, II was born to the late Marie DeVane and James Randall on February 13, 1957 in New Haven, Connecticut. Eugene was adopted by his mom, Eleanor Randall following the marriage of James and Eleanor.

Eugene confessed Christ at an early age and rededicated his life to Christ on August 10, 1978. He graduated from West End High School in Birmingham, Alabama in 1975. He was employed at various places of business including Carraway Hospital, Pizza Hut, K-Mart, and A.G. Gaston Home for Senior Citizens. While employed at A.G. Gaston, he met Pauldenia and they married in June 1984. He adopted the late Derrick Delon. To Their union, he had two daughters.

Eugene graduated from Miles College, Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian in May of 1989. He continued his academic journey at Lexington Theological

Seminary and graduated May 1992. He then became an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In October of 1992, he authored and published "From the Balcony to the Boardroom."

He was the pastor of the Macedonia Christian Church (1983-1989) and Third Christian Church (1992-1995). Eugene went on to serve 20 years as Vice-President of Church Extension. He was active with the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation and the Board of Directors of Greenwood Cemetery.

On Nov. 21, 2013 at 2:20 PM, the Lord called Eugene home with his loving family by his side.

Preceded in death by his grandparents Fannie and Eugene Randall, Grandmother Ludie Williams, son Derrick Delon, and brother Michael DeVane. Eugene's loving memory is cherished by his wife Pauldenia, his daughters Shaunte Denys and Deborah Joy, his grandson Braylen Delon; his mother Mrs. Eleanor Randall; his siblings Valeria (Willie) New Haven, Connecticut, Cynthia Jacqueline, Ruth and Janice, New Haven, Connecticut; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Also, his extended brothers, Rev. Charles Williams, Felton Gholston and Rev. Donald Breland.

Rev. Randall's home-going celebration was indeed a celebration with music of praise, testimonies of faith and a profound message from John 11:22, "but even now." Bishop Melvin Brown testified how he just came and sat with us until together we could address our needs. Erick Reisinger told how Eugene entered the Church Extension calling for the ministry to do the right thing. Rev. Charles Williams asked for prayer as he eulogized his brother, friend and confidante. He shared his Tuesday, Nov. 20th visit with Eugene and the excitement that Eugene had over having another surgery that would enable him to go back to work. Bags were packed for the trip to the hospital when Eugene told Pauldenia that he felt strange. He rolled over and never recovered. Things were looking up. Rev. Williams pressed the loved ones to know that for God there is a , "But even now."

### Thank You For Your Precious Gifts

BETTY J. HOGAN, INDIANAPOLIS, IN; REV. EUGENE & BONNIE FRAZIER, RAYMORE, MO; KAREN & BENNIE YOANT, RAYMORE. MO; LOUADA B. CHISHOLM, SILVER SPRING, MD; MARY E. MITCHELL, INDIANAPOLIS, IN; DELORIS L. RUDDOCK, MT. RAINIER, MD; DAISY R. CHAMBERS, WINSTON - SALEM, NC; DR. NORMAN & MAY REED, INDIANAPOLIS, IN; GLENN & KATHY HELME, WESTMINSTER, MD. & DORIS DAUGHERTY, WASHINGTON, DC.

### THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

As we prepare for a new year our Publisher/Senior Editor Emeritus Oscar Haynes would remind us of a famous quote of Mahatma Gandhi regarding seven deadly sins. Gandhi said:

"Seven Deadly Sins:

Wealth without Work;

Pleasure without Conscience;

Science without Humanity;

Knowledge without

Character;

Politics without

Principle;

Commerce without

Morality;

Worship without

Sacrifice."



**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE** is a free print and electronic ministry published four times a year through tax exempt donations. The ministry, founded by Rev. Dr. William K. Fox, networks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seasoned pilgrims by: 1) enhancement of communication and sharing of mutual experiences; 2) conveying a holistic view of aging and health; 3) being an advocate for seniors to become a supportive, loving and caring community; 4) giving honor and dignity to the lives of those included in "For Whom The Bell Tolls"; and 5) highlighting opportunities for the maintenance of a high quality life style and service in retirement. We are enabled by servants ordered as Board of Directors, administration and editorial staff.

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