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The Oldtimers' Grapevine

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1995

### The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 5 (January - December 1995)

William K. Fox Sr

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# The Oldtimers' Grapevine

Vol. V No. 1

January - February 1995

## Year of 1994 Review: Many Make Key Transitions

**"T**ime is too Slow for those who Wait,  
Too Swift for those who Fear,  
Too Long for those who Grieve,  
Too Short for those who Rejoice;  
But for those who Love, Time is eternity."  
-Henry Van Dyke

Within the "world" of OLD-TIMERS' GRAPEVINE readers, many of our associates and friends confronted the realities of Time during 1994.

**\*RETIREMENT** came December 31, 1994 to some like Janice Newborn, General Church Women staff; Marilyn Hotz, 43 and 1/2 years in Missions Building service, Christian literature; Byron Rose in ministry 35 yrs-Pastor Downey Ave. CC 7 yrs-serving many Missions Building Staff- all from Indianapolis, IN; Virginia McHenry- business manager 16 years since founding of Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore, MO.

**\* DEATH** came to others like-  
\*Rosa Page Welch (January),



*"I lift up my eyes to the hills... My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1 RSV*

Port Gibson, MS; William (Bill) Starn (March), Columbia,

***"Time is Too Slow for those who Wait... Too Short for those who Rejoice; But for those who Love, Time is eternity.***

MO; Lewis Deer (June); Harrell A. Rea (July); Wisteria Spencer Reid (July), Martinsville, VA Leola Lee Fugate (August), Rogersville, TN; and Jean Long Dillinger (Sept.), Oakland, CA.

## After 85 Years- Missions Building is Closing

**I**ndianapolis, IN- Retired Missions Building staff have been asked for in-pu on a "Service of Closure" at Missions Building January 30, 1995. The building has served as the International center for coordinating the work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 85 years. Peter Morgan, director of worship for the general church, was appointed to develop a special service. Retirees were encouraged to lift up cherished memories they have from their occupancy of the building. Some of these recollections may be used in the Service.

All general church staff presently housed in the building will be moving to a newly leased quarters in downtown Indianapolis.

The leasing of new facilities for general church staff was endorsed by the church when the general board abandoned long standing plans for constructing a new international center building.

*See, REFLECTIONS, Page 4*

### inside...

Lifting Up the Blessings of Oldtimers — Page 2  
A Concerned Disciple Woman and Twenty-Five Cents- Page 3  
Some Reflections on Missions Building in 1994-95 - Page 4

# Lifting up the Blessings of Oldtimers-

**C**elebrate the 50th!

**Indianapolis, IN-** September 11, 1994 the Garland and Barbara Farmer family celebrated their 50th. Wedding Anniversary in the historic Garden on the Green Restaurant. This



restaurant was used as a playhouse for the Lilly children when the current grounds now the home for an arts museum was the estate of the Eli Lilly family.

The Anniversary planners had a string quartet to provide music in one section of a room while on

the other end a videocassette was showing events in the life of the Farmer-Boyton family.

It was a gala occasion followed by two days of a family reunion fellowship before the out-of-towners departed. Family members present were Elizabeth Boynton of Providence, RI, Barbara's sister; Marjorie Arrington of Dallas, TX, Garland's sister; Christine and Michael Clarke and Brian, Jeffrey and Catherine of Ann Arbor, MI; Louise and Alan Uota of Sacramento, CA; and the Farmer's daughter, Margaret, who lives in Indianapolis.

The Farmers have been faithful members and leaders in the Downey Avenue Christian Church. Gary is currently attending an Hispanic congregation which meets in the Northwood Christian Church facilities. Bar-

bara Farmer is busily involved with the Garden Homes Guild and the "Tuesday Club."

Upon graduation from seminary, Gary intended to go to Mexico or Paraguay as a missionary. However, the foreign missions department of the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) eventually sent him to Puerto Rico where he and his wife, Barbara, provided teaching and administrative services for thirteen years (1946-59).

This was followed with similar services in the Belgian Congo (Zaire) for four years (1960-64). They returned to Zaire for short terms of eight months in 1987-88 and again in 1989-89 for seven months. Gary retired after serving on the administrative staff of Overseas Ministries.

## LET US PLACE THESE ASSOCIATES WITHIN OUR PRAYER FOCUS:

**G**rambling, LA- **Charles A. Berry, retired president of Jarvis Christian College**, who is recuperating from a slight onset of a stroke in early October 1994.

Dr. Berry was attending a board meeting of the congregation where he attends when he felt something unusual occurring. Mrs. Berry carried him to a nearby emergency room where extensive testing revealed the difficulty. President Berry has come

through an intensive rehabilitation period in good shape and will soon be back to his normal involvement in the church, the American Association of Retired Persons local chapter and personal affairs.

**\*Indianapolis, IN- E. Roger Fry, retired BCE staff**, who is receiving treatment for a malignancy recently located in a polyp removed from his throat in early November 1994. Roger and wife, Mary, are long time active mem-

bers of the Downey Avenue Christian Church.

**\*Emmett Dickson, retired General Church DHM executive**, who developed serious pains from undisclosed origins during the recent Holiday season.

**\* Bob and Janet McNeill, retired general church communications staff and public school teacher**-both in the Robin Run

*See, PRAYERS, Page 3*

## A Concerned Disciple Woman and Twenty-five Cents-

**S**ixty-eight years ago during a meeting of the National Christian Missionary Convention held in Monroe Avenue Christian Church, Columbus, OH, young man named Charles Darnell was featured to preach on what then was called "Sunday School Day." According to the late Margaret Lee of Dayton, OH, another young man named Cal Crawford was sitting near a veteran church woman called "Mother Wilson." She overheard Mr. Crawford exclaim: "I would like to be a preacher and preach like that."

Extra offerings were traditional during church services of that day. After the "main offering" was taken, Mother Wilson came down to the offering table and turned to the congregation and said:

"Friends, I want to say something. This young man Cal Crawford that we brought to the convention, after hearing Charles Darnell preach, said, he "would like to be a preacher."

And I think something should be done about it... I am laying 25 cents on this table and I want everyone here to come and lay something down so that we may start something to help boys to become ministers."

That does not sound like an earth-shaking stewardship action for us living in this highly affluent

twentieth century western society. But at that time, many people, especially ethnic minorities, were struggling to survive on meager incomes. For many, putting an extra 25 cents on the offering table could be like putting your "all on the altar."

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***"This young man Cal Crawford... said he would like to be a preacher. And I think something should be done about it..."***

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Mother Wilson's first 25 cents grew into The Sarah Wilson Scholarship Fund which today serves predominantly African American Disciples of Christ congregations in southern Ohio.

### RETIRED AIRMAN MCGHEE ACTIVE IN BOTH CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

**K**ansas City, MO- When Colonel Charles E. McGee, veteran lay leader in the Swope Park Christian Church, spoke to the annual luncheon meeting of the supporters of the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project held at the Disabled American Veterans Center, The retired Tuskegee Institute trained U. S. Air Force pilot, did what he has done many times.

An appreciative audience heard him tell the inspiring story of the nearly 1,000 African American men who 50 years ago volun-

### Prayers Needed- from Page 2

Health Center sharing a room since December 1994 for an indefinite period as they recover from severe injuries and related problems due to an automobile accident. They celebrated their 55th. wedding anniversary August 6.

### Henry Awarded Pin

Los Angeles, CA- Enoch Henry was presented with an Honored Minister's Pin at Hollywood Christian Church October 23, 1994 in recognition of more than 50 years of stellar service as a minister to congregations in Kentucky, Oklahoma and California and field staff of UCMS & DHM.

teered to be trained at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama as pilots and became the first black airmen to belong in the U. S. Air Force. The successful training project broke the racial segregation practice in the Air Force.

According to McGhee, from June 1944 to the closing of the War in 1945, no bomber escorted by a Tuskegee pilot was ever shot down. Col. McGhee flew one-man single-engine P-51's over the Mediterranean Sea during that

*See, AIRMAN, Page 8*

## SOME REFLECTIONS ON "MISSIONS BUILDING" - 1994-95

by William K. Fox, Sr.- Raymore, MO

**S**ome aspects of Archibald McLean's "Prophecy Fulfilled" dream for Missions Building were realized through responsibilities I had for the National Convocation of the Christian Church and Reconciliation as a member of the general minister and president's staff from June 1, 1972 to December 31, 1982. The spiritual energy which emanated from the building not only reached around the world. It also deeply affected the quality of life in our family and our relationships with the historic Irvington community. Thus, my wife, Reubena M. S. Fox, joins me in making this testimony.

When I became the Bible teacher and religious extension field worker at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS in 1943 and Mrs. Fox was employed as the community school principal teacher, we began to receive many opportunities to come to Missions Building for meetings. This continued throughout my early ministries. I still have positive memories of wholesome interactions with a Virgil Sly, Barton Hunter, Robert H. Peoples, Velva Dreese, James Crain, Jessie Trout, Charles Webb, Sr., Mae Yo Ward, or a Williard Wickizer- examples of sainted Disciples of Christ leaders who once provided an inspirational presence within

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*At Missions Building I always had the feeling that everybody there was on the same "team." When I first started work on the general staff, I soon got the impression that I had accepted a job that I could in no way accomplish by myself. When I asked Dr. Fiers how much help I would have in the office to get some of those things done, he assured me that "whole church staff was at my disposal!" I wondered how...that could ever be! But the atmosphere of Missions Building helped me to feel that we were all on the same "team."*

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the walls of Missions Building.

Soon after I became staff in the office of the general minister and president, I learned the importance of the "Coffee Break" for humanizing the work-place. Later when I began to attend and participate in the regular weekly vesper services, I sensed brief moments when there was a spiritual bonding of people often separated by structured barriers of role and function. Eventually it became evident that I belonged to a Christian family and not merely a corporate ecclesiastical structure.

During an early orientation session with A. Dale Fiers on practical guidelines for becoming one of his effective assistants, I was concerned about the style of clothing which would be most appropriate for wearing in the office. In times past I was given the impression that all "high church" officials were expected to wear modest dresses, or coats, shirts and matching ties. One day I asked Dale if it was ever appropriate to wear a sports shirt or jacket to work. He assured me that there were times when he wore such attire and that it would certainly be all right for me.

At Missions Building I always had the feeling that everybody there was on the same "team." When I first started work on the general staff, I soon got the impression that I had accepted a job that I could in no way accomplish by myself. When I asked Dr. Fiers how much help I would have in the office to get some of those things done, he assured me that "whole church staff was at my disposal!" I wondered how in the world that could ever be! But the atmosphere of Missions Building helped me to feel that we were all on the same "team."

*See, NEW FACILITIES Page 6*

Examples of Christ's Servants ONCE ANCHORED IN "THE BUILDING" to CARRY OUT "THE MISSION!"



MISSIONS BUILDING  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST  
222 SO. DOWNEY

OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

1/5/95

## "The Building" was Dedicated Servants Nurturing God's Gospel Seed Throughout the World. May this continue! *(Continued from Page 4)*

This feeling of being on the "same team" fostered a sense of the largeness of church. The physical facilities and activities within the building provided a close proximity between the staff of church units and organizations. Thus, during my administration the Na

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*At one point in time, Missions Building existed within a community which fostered attitudes that were hostile to the Archibald McLean dream of a reconciled and Christian society*

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tional Convocation developed collaborative relationships with the Division of Overseas Ministries and the Council on Christian Unity. This led to my overseas travel in behalf of the Church and Convocation and the development of on-site connections with church leaders in East and West Africa, Japan, and Jamaica. Program committees of the National Convocation were encouraged to internationalize their outlook.

World church leaders were featured on several of our biennial session programs.

We were blessed in living within a block of Missions Building during our ten years of service. Thus, Mrs. Fox always felt that Missions Building was a community facility which was a real resource for our family. She recounts attending the "Brown Bag" fellowship meetings held by Missions Building women; selling UNESCO Christmas cards in the foyer of the Building. When friends and family visited us they would never return to their homes without paying a visit to Missions Building.

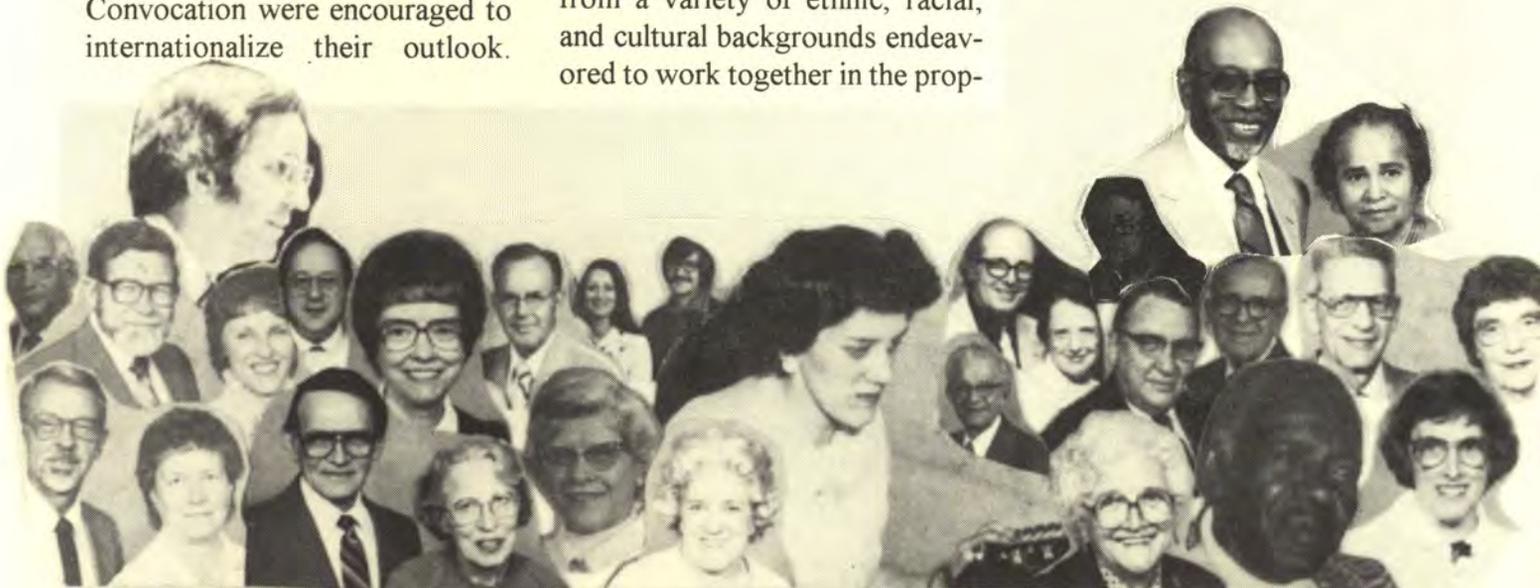
At one point in time, Missions Building existed within a community which fostered attitudes that were hostile to the Archibald McLean dream of a reconciled and Christian society. Mrs. Fox and I saw Missions Building as a living witness to the reconciling spirit of Jesus Christ as persons from a variety of ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds endeavored to work together in the prop-

agation of the Gospel Message around the world. Thus, we felt privileged to work in such a building and live fully within such a community. We saw ourselves as a small part of the fulfillment of the Archibald McLean "Prophecy."

We earnestly pray that church administrators will be enabled to use future facilities for the International Offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to continue the implementation of the unfinished, Gospel mission based on Archibald McClean's dream for releasing a "great spiritual energy that will affect people around the world."

**SIGNED: William K. Fox, Sr. -  
Raymore, MO**

*NOTE: This statement was written in response to the invitation from the GMP's Office to share.*



# We Begin Our 4th Consecutive Year "In the Black!"

**D**ONORS SINCE LAST ISSUE: Garand/Barbara Farmer, Donald/Mary Mitchell, N. Vernon/Lo Ann Blankenship, Gertude Dimke, Lorenzo Evans, Elizabeth M. Enix, Irene/Charles Mills, Robert A/Julia S. Fangmeier; Indianapolis, IN; Cornelius/Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; Cavannah Clark, Oklahoma City, OK; Ruth E. Ellington, University City, MO; Earl/Verbie Rand, Marshall, TX; Arthur/Mae Young, Dorothy/Hobart Sweatt, Velma Warrick, Kansas City, MO; Wayne/Geneve Selsor, Ckarence/Betty Doss, Raymore, MO; Walter/Grace Giffin, Sun City, AZ; Humphrey K/Marguerite Jackson, Dayton, OH; Bess R. Terry, New York, N.Y.; Arzolla Cooke, Knoxville, TN; Lorraine Dudley, St. Louis, MO; Lucille Coward, St. Laurent, P.Q. Canada; Mildred L. Webb, Harvey, IL; Enoch W. Henry, Jr., Los Angeles, CA; Charles/Sarah Berry, Jr, Grambling, LA.

**Thanks to devoted people like you** who are not only happy to read THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE, but also make a donation to help it meet operating expenses, we can begin another year IN THE BLACK!

The real challenge, however, is for those of us who read THE OLDTIMERS' to dedicate more of their time to making the GRAPEVINE- the NETWORK! You can do that by letting other

seniors know about your experiences as a viable senior citizen and Disciple of Christ! Just give the manager-editor a telephone call or written, typed or faxed note.

It would also be enriching if you would share a poem or other creative writing you have done. Such

**PLEASE NOTE  
NUMBER BEHIND YOUR  
NAME IN THE ADDRESS  
TO SEE OUR RECORD  
OF YOUR LAST**

material might relate to advice and counsel seniors would like younger persons to ponder.

OLDTIMERS' is interested in promoting intergenerational communication. We would publish such exchanges in OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE.

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Consultant - San Diego, CA

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Phone: 816-331-7323 or FAX: 816-331-7181**

**Airman Active- from  
page 3**

painted red to signify a pilot trained at Tuskegee, ALA.

Colonel McGhee was also a pilot during the Korean and Vietnamese encounters and has many citations. He has served as Commander of Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base and the 184th. Air Base Wing here in Kansas City. At one time he was manager of the Kansas City Downtown airport.

A large portion of his retirement time is spent as a volunteer lay leader in the Swope Park Christian Church where he gives meaningful support to the weekly ad-

**ENDOWMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

The National Christian Missionary Convention Ministers' Wives-National Convocation Ministers' Wives through 1988 has established an Endowed Scholarship Fund at Christian Theological Seminary to help students furthering their educational preparation for the Christian ministry.

A plaque with names of contributors in honor and in memory has been placed in the archives for the Seminary.

Students shall apply for a scholarship and qualify as one would for any other scholarship.

Visit the Seminary whenever you are in Indianapolis and view the plaque.

*Mesdames Alpha P. Arnold and Lucile A. Compton- ENABLERS*

**"I Would do it Again.!"**

**Indianapolis, IN-** Please find enclosed my contribution to keep The Oldtimers' Grapevine going. November 2, 1934 I was ordained to the Christian Ministry at Southern Christian Institute by J. B. Lehman and Jason Cowan. If I had another sixty years I would do it again.

*-Lorenzo J. Evans- Pastor; Retired Army chaplain; YMCA field executive; General Church field staff; active retiree.*

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**as the New Year begins...**

**"Come Divine Presence, and journey with us.  
Interrupt our steps and surprise us."**

**Minerva C. Carcano  
Disciplines 1993**

# ❖ The Oldtimers' Grapevine ❖

Volume V No. 2

March - April 1995

Raymore, Missouri

## SPIRITUALIZING TRANSITION



**HONOREES:** Left to right, Garnett Day, LaTaunya Bynum, Ozark Range, Sr, Janice Newborn, Marilyn Hotz, Raye Feltner-Kapornyai-

*Picture, courtesy of R. F-K*

**I**ndianapolis, IN- A unique "Celebration of Ministry and Service of Farewell" for six general church staff members who had served the denomination for more than an aggregate total of 155 years was held in Graham Chapel of Missions Building November 28, 1994. The celebration, under the direction of Peter Morgan, Director of Worship in DHM, moved from solemn moments of liturgical grace to periods of spiritual melody. It was laced with actions of genuine Christian love, fellowship and recommitment.

It was a spiritualization of major transitions in the lives of outstanding retirees and released staff. The honorees are shown in the above picture.

Associated with Morgan in guiding the worship experience were Reader Ann Updegraph-Spleth, Elders Joyce B. Coalson and Richard Hamm; Presenters of Honorees William Edwards, Jerry Cunningham, Carol Cosby, Janice Newborn, Marilyn Hotz, and Jack Sullivan.

During his opening words, Dr. Morgan stated that "In these times of

Christians do more than eat, give jewelry and say "good bye."

transition we ... do effectively only in the strength of Jesus Christ... Our service will begin with strong affirmation of our faith in Christ... The scripture readings have to do with pilgrimage... Our story of pilgrimage is a part of a larger and greater Story.

Then comes the central focus of the service... the "Offering of Ministry." Each one of the persons will be presented and their gifts of ministry... And then with them we will offer that ministry to God...

Christ joins us in the journey and we will take Christ with us in the partaking of the Lord's Supper... Following communion at the stations we will have an opportunity to embrace each other using the words "Mutually embraced in the everlasting arms, I embrace you in mine."

The service will then move into a prayer for each other and finally moments of Renewal and Commitment to God."

This was the order of celebration. Dr. Morgan opened the service with this call to God:

*See CELEBRATION, Page 2*

## “A Celebration of Ministry and Service of Farewell”

**"D**ear God you call us to the high privilege of ministry. Servants of the one who came not to be served, but to serve. We are overwhelmed. Who are we to stand in Christ's place? Who can walk in this lonesome valley of bearing each other's pain? God we come to you only because you have assured us that you walk beside us. Come near loving God. Hear the joy in our hearts by being blessed by the ministry of these special friends. Come near, loving God, heal the hurt in our hearts as we pray with them our prayers of farewell...

**After each presentation the group said in unison:**

**"... thank God for your gifts of ministry. You have blessed us and you have blessed God's church. With you, we offer these gifts to God with this prayer." then they sang-**

**"Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought, Bless thou the work our hearts have planned; Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; The rest O God, is in thy hand. Amen."**



**\*Honoree LaTaunya Bynum presented by William Edwards-** As a member of Homeland Ministries staff for twelve years she had the responsibility of "nurture, advocacy, and support of ordained and licensed women as well as ministerial students." She sought to affirm clergy women in all settings- particularly in those non-traditional ministries outside the local church. She also affirmed the work of lay women in the church via the offices serving church women. She received joy in "witnessing the difference that competent women are making in their service of ministry." Toni is one who has a "unique preaching style that not only touches your head but also your heart."

The question of why she was leaving bothered many. But Dr. Bynum believes earnestly in Thessalonians 3:24- "The one who calls you is faithful." She believes that faithfulness in service is the most important part of her discipleship. Dr. Edwards climaxed his remarks with Dr. Bynum's favorite gospel song "My soul is anchored in the Lord." The group was then led to sing another of her favorites: "I feel like going on."

**\*Honoree A. Garnett Day presented by Gerald Cunningham-** According to Cunningham, Garnett was a "preacher's kid" whose "call to ministry did not come with a flash of inspiration..." It began some 40 years ago when he tried working his way through college selling bibles in rural North and South Carolina. In an attempt to get change for a \$20 at three farms, he was almost arrested by the police when they stopped him and noted the sagging rear end of his 1934 Ford. They thought he might have been a bootlegger. They soon discovered the car contained bibles and he was only a salesman. Following service in three pastorates in Kentucky and Florida, Garnett became deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

His 31 years of work with the denomination began officially during the 1963 International Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) when he was secured to work for the church's Coordinating Committee on Moral and Civil Rights. He recruited clergy to work for civil rights in Mississippi and Alabama; mobilized support for the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill and the 1965 Voting Rights Act and was a supporter of many projects sponsored by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**See NEXT PAGE**

## From Justice Advocates to Women Who Witness...

**H**is advocacy for justice and civil rights has enabled him to be a Disciples minister "of record." He suffered an arrest in 1966 during a protest in Indianapolis against the Vietnam war, again four years later in Indianapolis during a service of worship at the local draft office and later in California as he functioned as a religious observer at a United Farm Workers demonstration. (Garnett reminded the group that for the past 20 years he hadn't been arrested for anything!)

Much of Garnett's work during the last decade has been with programs of the Disciples Peace Fellowship; the Disciples Advocacy Washington Network; mounting support of the Farm Workers Union in their quest to represent workers; and in the witness of the church on issues of economic justice, racism and Central America socio-economic concerns. Homeland Ministries has not yet announced specific plans on how such services and witness will be made by the general church in the future.

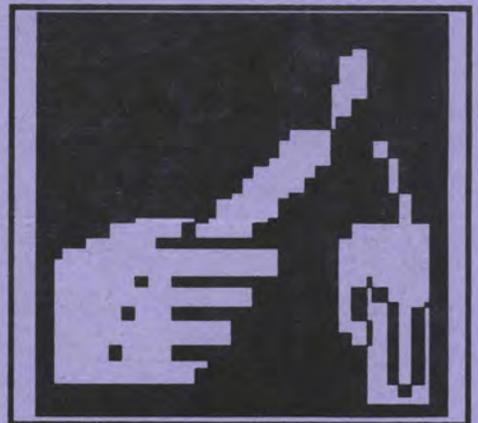
**Honoree Raye Feltner-Kapornyai presented by Carol Cosby-** Raye was employed in October 1984 by the Division of Homeland Ministries as the director of stewardship and education for the department of church women. She had just completed twelve years of service for the regional church in North Carolina. She helped produce appropriately related materials and to shape the decision making and planning processes for church women. Her ecumenical contacts were enhanced by her relationship with the Friendship Press which channeled materials throughout the world.

Cosby emphasized that beyond Raye's dutiful performance of operational staff services was "much more than doing." She stressed her "ministry of being... one who reflects Christ to the world... The Christ in me meets the Christ in thee... And here is how I have seen the Christ in you... You look for the Christ in the other, the stranger... You look at each person you meet as a brother or a sister..."

Among the things women say Raye has done was "spotting glimmers of a gift, allowing it to surface, and then helping the persons polish the gifts." "You always bring out the best in people." Your tendency to take pictures of people which will enable them to look their best is ministry. You want each person whose picture you are taking to look her very best. And you reflect that very best back to us in the picture you give us of ourselves... Anyone who has spent time with you (Raye) has received from you; has received your time, your care, your presence..."

Raye was praised for her exceptional voice and her appointment to be "the voice of God" which called 1994 Quadrennial Assembly to order. At the close of the presentation Raye led the group in singing: "Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Help us Lord, Help us Lord in thy way."

**Honoree Marilyn Hotz presented by Janice Newborn-** Retiring after 43 and one half years of service to the general church, Janice introduced Marilyn as "The Book Lady."



See NEXT PAGE

## “Mutually embraced in the everlasting arms...”

**S**he was given an inspirational orientation to the deeper meaning of Missions Building by actually seeing "two top leaders on their knees. It was Mae Yo Ho Ward and Virgil Sly seeking divine direction." For Marilyn it inspired her instant affection. Missions Building became more than a working place. It was a means of grace...Her mother was a proof reader for a book publisher when she and her brother were at an early age. In order to get her work done, the mother would read the review copies to the children in order to keep them quiet.

Later while Marilyn was a member of the International Christian Youth Fellowship Council she witnessed a racial discrimination action pointed toward the widely known African American soloist and goodwill ambassador, Rosa Page Welch. From that point on she became an active worker for social justice. Since 1967 Marilyn has been an active member of PACE- the Public Action in Correctional Effort- a United Way organization working primarily in the area of criminal justice with particular emphasis on direct services to inmates incarcerated in Indiana correctional facilities. In 1971 she was awarded the PACE "Volunteer of the Year Award." In 1984 she was given the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Indianapolis Volunteer Action Center of the Community Service Council.



Ms Hotz began her work at Missions Building as a secretarial assistant to Geneva Brown and Edith Yocum in the Sales Literature Department interpreting United Christian Missionary Society materials to the larger church. She continued in such services for most of her career. She eventually became the director of such work and traveling all over

America to a variety of denominational meetings and assemblies until her retirement. In addition she was regarded as an adjunct staff member to the office of Disciples Women and the Department of Church Women. She assisted in the assignment process in the preparation of Christian Womens Fellowship studies. Marilyn was given the Mae Yo Ho Wards Pin in recognition of her years of faithful service to the church. Presenter Newborn concluded her remarks by giving this salute: "M" is for maturity of spirit. "A" is for being astute in relationships. "R" is for being resourceful always. "I" is for being insightful and knowledgeable. "L" is for being loyal to the church and to your colleagues. "Y" is for being young at heart. And "N" is for being nurturing and caring. That spells Marilyn." ... And American Indian philosophy states "May the footprints we leave behind show that we walked in kindness toward the earth and every living thing." Newborn offered these words as a benediction to the services of Marilyn Hotz.

**\*Honoree Janice Newborn presented by Marilyn Hotz-** It was noted that the honoree and presenter had many similarities. For example, both prepared to be elementary school teachers and began their work at Missions Building as "temporary support staff." Marilyn stayed 43 1/2 years Janice 16 years. Both were laywomen- two of the few on general church staff. While in college both majored music in school.

She began church services as secretary to Fran Craddock in the department of Church Women. Overseas Division President Robert Thomas then secured her to be corporate secretary and administrative assistant for DOM. When Dr. Thomas retired, Janice returned to the Department of Church Women to fill several roles. She retired as Senior Associate for Administering the Office of Disciple Church Women.

## From "The Book Lady" to an Itinerant Preacher...

### *From PreviousPage-*

Marilyn noted that Janice was not your usual "mover and shaker." But when Janice speaks with strong conviction as was noted in her presentation at the Round Table at the 1994 Quadrennial, she is most effective.

Because of her keen insights into the interests and concerns of young women, she became the "star" of an ecumenical film "Seating the Sisterhood." It is widely distributed in women's conferences and retreats. Janice should be remembered as the one who was instrumental in preserving the integrity of the Office of Disciple Women.

Marilyn shared a letter from Maureen Asuga which "sums up Janice's style and grace. "Dear Janice I cherish your friendship and your affirming style of leadership which allows others to work in their mode. You have been a fine example for us all on how to behave properly even when confronted by negative forces. What I am trying to say is I greatly admire and appreciate you. Love, Maureen."



**Honoree Ozark Range, Sr. presented by Jack Sullivan-** Dr. Range's marriage to Kathryn presents a family of 14 children, 26 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. After 17 years of service in the general church Ozark is retiring in 1995 as the associate for Black Ministry in the Center for Leadership and Ministry in the Division of Homeland Ministries.

His ministry began with his "call" in 1951 when he completed the formal education offered at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS. It was endorsed in 1954 when he was ordained by the Texas Christian Missionary Convention. College and seminary work were later completed through matriculation at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX; T. C. U.'s Brite School of Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX; and later Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN.



Before coming to general church work in 1977, he served as a pastor in Texas ten years; associate regional minister in Mississippi for three years; and pastor of the Woodland Avenue Christian Church in Columbus, OH for 13 1/2 years. In the meantime he was elected to various leadership positions in the district, regional and national expressions of the church.

During his pastoral ministry he became deeply involved in advocacy for social justice. In Columbus, OH he served as the chair for the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Community and Police Relations and the chair of the Columbus, OH board for Operation PUSH- People United to Serve Humanity.

Sullivan alluded to Dr. Range's assuming the role of being a catalyst in Missions Building for keeping up high professional morale of general church staff associates. Dr. Sullivan capsulized the true meaning of Range's ministry by singing the song "If I can help somebody as I pass along . If I can cheer somebody with a word or song, If I can show somebody that they're traveling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain."

Dr. Range, an avid fisherman, responded by advising staff associates to fish in deep waters rather than shallow, if they wanted to catch "fish" that really mattered.

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

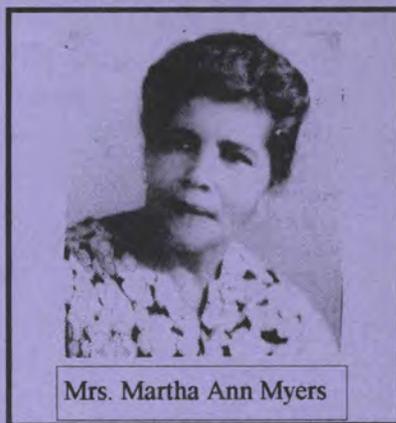
**K**ansas City, MO  
**Martha Ann Myers**, devoted wife of retired pastor and national church leader Sere S. Myers, died January 16, 1995 after an extended period of illness. She was born in Edwards, MS September 13, 1902 as the daughter of Moses and Julia Mitt.

She was memorialized in Community Christian Church where her pastor, Robert Hill, officiated. He was associated in service leadership with King David Cole, pastor of Swope Park United Christian Church who offered prayer; William K. Fox, Sr. of Foxwood Springs Living Center, who gave the eulogy; and Community Church associate minister Richard Woodward, who assisted at graveside.

Mrs. Myers was a gracious Christian lady who met her husband while both were students at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and married in 1924 upon graduation.

After coming to Kansas City in 1932 she became active in church and community while her husband served the West Paseo Christian Church (now Swope Park United) for 42 years.

Meantime she was the mother of Dr. Sere Spaulding Myers, founder of the Myers Dental Clinic; Michael T. Myers, former



Mrs. Martha Ann Myers

governmental administrator; Millicent J. Bates, long time operator of a florist shop; and Stacy E. Williams of Los Angeles, an active community services volunteer. All survive the deceased.

Others include eleven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren living in four states and England.

Burial was in Mt. Moriah Cemetery of Kansas City, MO.

## Death of New Headquarters Plan Births New Vision

**I**ndianapolis, IN  
 Historic Missions Building which housed the general offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was closed January 30, 1995 with a formal service. The operations were moved to leased quarters at 130 E. Washington Street in Indianapolis because plans for building a new 11 million dollar center had been abandoned.

Last November a Task Group related to the Irvington Historical Society, motivated concerned persons to devise plans for 75 to 100 senior citizen apartments at the Missions Building site. Meanwhile the board of Christian Church Services voted to make a gift of the property to The United Church of Christ related Retirement Housing Foundation for this purpose.

## Dotson- Vigorous Disciple Worker Dies at 88-

**V**icksburg, MS- **The Rev. Henry Bernard Dotson, Sr**, born to Andrew and Bertha Dotson August 12, 1907, died January 19, 1995 following an extended period of illness. Memorial services were held in Bethel A. M. E. Church where the Pastor, James A. Metcalf, delivered the eulogy. Words of memorial were shared by Disciples of Christ ministers Ozark Range, Sr. of the general church office in Indianapolis, IN, and William McKnight of Jackson, MS, the regional minister for Christian Churches in Mississippi. Dotson received formal education in Vicksburg, MS public schools, Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and Butler University in Indianapolis. He was a carpenter, educator, engineer, and interior decorator. He served the church in Christian education. He was a choir director and singer. He became deeply involved with the Disciples of Christ Volunteer program. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ida Mae; 4 sons; 4 daughters; one brother; 25 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

## Our Fifth (not 4th) Banner Year!

**DONORS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE:**  
 Ozark/Kathryn Range, Sr., Robert/Linda Glover, Gerald/Katherine Cunningham, Marjorie/Russell Parker, Mable Metze, Walter/Sue Cardwell, Spencer/Kitty Austin, Indianapolis, IN; Jo Ellen/Jeffrey Mapes, Leawood, K.S.; Glenn/Charlotte Shoemaker, Sheldon/Miriam Shirts, Eugene/Nancy Rutherford, Raymore, MO; Artie M. Scott, George/Clytee Washington, Marthetta McMickle; A. Dale/Betty Fiers, John C. Updegraff, Jacksonville, FL; Thomas/Virginia Liggett, Claremont, CA; Curtis/Viola Lloyd, Dayton, OH; Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Sue Ross, Edwards, MS; John/Lucile Compton, Cincinnati, OH; Levene W. Graham, Beech Grove, IN

\*\*\*\*\*

### ODE TO THE OLDTIMERS' *by Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS*

Praise God for the "Oldtimers'  
 Grapevine,"  
 As it connects friends far and  
 near,  
 Carrying many memories of the  
 past of those we love so dear.

It carries with it messages  
 From the "drummers" of  
 yesteryears.  
 Even though the drum beats are  
 slower  
 Each sound is full of cheers.

A close relationship is keenly felt

As the news is carefully read, The  
 memories are cherished.

May we give praises to those  
 who led

Through many years of sacrifice  
 Courageous and unafraid.

May the drummers' steps never  
 falter

O'er the land which they continue  
 to trod.

May all their paths be brightened  
 By the ever presence of God.

*-January 28, 1995-*

*Thanks so much! Don't forget to  
 send us a report or two on what  
 you and/or your senior friends  
 are doing. Help NETWORK!*



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## Range Retirement ( Like Others) Leaves Gaps

**W**hen Dr. Ozark Range, Sr. retires from the office of Associate for Black Ministry March 31, 1995, it will mark nearly a quarter of a century of significant leadership development and nurturing among African American Disciples of Christ ministers.

Range reports that "From 1974 to 1993 we had thirty-seven congregations participate in the Salary Support program. Twenty-five of the thirty-seven congregations today remain full time congregations." Several have been cited by the larger church for significant congregational ministries.

Range also administered the Star

Supporter Scholarship Fund which provided grants to needy African American Disciples in preparation for Christian ministry; assisted regional church offices in the relocation of African American clergy and provided guidance for seminary students.

March 7-9, 1995 Dr. Range directed the Twenty-First Annual Black Ministers Retreat in Memphis, TN. The Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church was the host. This was the last Retreat directed by Dr. Range before his retirement. Ministers Retreats were held at various points in the States. A high percentage of the 300 or more Black ministers attending have been inspired and refreshed for continuing service

by high quality program. The event was operated mainly on registration fees and modest subsistence.

The maintenance of strong programmatic ties to African American Disciples of Christ ministers is critical to the full health of the denomination. The Range retirement will leave large gaps in general church services.

The Black Ministries port folio came into being at the height of the civil rights movement in the nation. The establishment of the port folio was a direct response to a restless group of young Black Disciple leaders who effectively articulated their concern during the first General Assembly of the Church in Seattle, WA in 1969.  
2/95

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### *Inside This Issue*

- \*Spiritualizing Transition*
- \*Death of New International Center Effort Gives Birth to New Vision*

# ◆ The Oldtimers' Grapevine ◆

Volume V- No. 3

May - June 1995

Raymore, Missouri

## THE HAROLD R. WATKINS RETIREMENT EVENT - A CELEBRATIVE TRIBUTE!

Indianapolis, IN- After 37 years of ministry and 3,500,000 miles of travel doing field visits, consultations and attending meetings, Harold Watkins was retiring as president of the Board of Church Extension.

Throughout the evening of March 13, 1995 an atmosphere of celebration and appreciation permeated the 217 guests from across the nation who assembled in the Marriott Hotel of Indianapolis, to celebrate Watkins' 34 years of devoted Christian service to BCE.

As persons gathered a huge multimedia screen which displayed a continuous flow of pictures portraying and life and ministry of the retiring President and his wife, Evelyn.

Director for Development Ellen L. Mitchell reported that the effort to reach the \$37,500 goal for the Harold Watkins Extenders Fund motivated more than 1,000 contributors to exceed \$50,000.

The BCE President's son, Actor and Minister Mark Watkins, and Computer Specialist and singer Kevin Friedly performed as a dynamic singing duo. They led jubi-



*HAL AND EVELYN spoke as one-*

*"...you...people in our lives, are God's gift to us...In response to God's grace bestowed on us by you in so many and such differing ways, we have continued to recognize our responsibilities. ...to ...currently working...full-time staff...there is a small personal gift from...us...And...this Board...a trust fund of our assets..” .for our family and this Board. “God's love and ours is present; and God's grace is sufficient.”-*

lant dinners in joyously singing the name of "Harold Watkins! Harold Watkins" to the tune of the Hallelujah Chorus! The audience rose to the occasion.

James Suggs of the Christian Board of Publication praised Hal's

"twinkle toes" for mileage covered.

He noted Hal's excellent physical fitness which enabled him to withstand the rigors of sitting through hundreds of meetings. In conclusion Hal was given a large silver wash basin for soaking the needful parts of the anatomy. Then friends and associates gave the Watkins family gifts the BCE president had never seen fit to give himself.

The super climax of the evening came when Harold and Evelyn issued a joint "Statement of Legacy." They announced the establishment of a trust fund through their will, with BCE as the primary beneficiary and gave each of the 33 BCE full-time staff an investment note. Each was encouraged to built it up.

## Dual Retirements in June Point to Race Progress in Alabama

**B**irmingham, AL- Dale C. Braxton recently invited members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region to a June 3, 1995 Retirement Celebration for Associate Regional Minister Earl Murray. He has served local congregations for thirty-four years and been the associate minister for the region for the past nine years. The event will take place in Montgomery, AL at the United Christian Church, 1116 Goode.

Gathering to fete the elder known to many in the church as "Father" or "Chief" a volunteer male chorus group recruited from various congregations, and several representative church leaders who will make a variety of presentations. A traditional "Book of Memories" will also be presented to Dr. Murray along with a "Love Offering."

"Chief" Murray has held a number of key leadership positions in the Alabama Christian Missionary Convention, National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) before his services to the Regional Church as an associate minister.

As "Father" Murray he has been the husband of Mrs. , a loyal and dedicated church worker. The union produced two sons who are serving currently Disciple of Christ congregations in Mississippi and Michigan. Samuel Mur-

ray is senior minister at United Christian Church in Jackson, MS. E Murray is the senior pastor for the Vermont Avenue Christian Church in Flint, MI.

### AND FLOCK RETIRES

**A**mong the positive factors in the Earl Murray, Sr. ministry and others in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region of the Christian Church, is Carl Flock who has

*"The Region does not intend to allow...staff and program relationships between African American and White Christians to deteriorate..". CARL FLOCK*

been the regional minister since December 1, 1977 and like Earl, retires in June. Soon after his ar-

rival in Alabama the first minister to visit Rev. Flock was Earl Murray, Sr. At the time Murray was the pastor of a congregation, and the executive secretary for the Black led Alabama Christian Missionary Convention. Flock gave strong regional leadership.

Before coming to Alabama Flock began serving the Kentucky regional church in June of 1959 as director of youth. He became the associate in September of 1969 being responsible for the supervision of support staff. Among other duties he served eight and one half years as the staff resourcing the Black led Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention.

When Flock came to Alabama in 1977 there was a written policy that there would be no racial integration of youth activities.

## Bench Marks in Race Relations Listed

**D**evlopments occurring in race relations in Alabama-Northwest Florida during the administration of Regional Minister Carl Flock and Associate Earl Murray, Sr. are the following:

- 1- Racial integration in all regional church activities achieved by 1983-
- 2- Movement of Alabama Christian Missionary Convention and Region into a "Convocation style" relationship with the Convocation reporting to Region like other Regional fellowships and committees. The Regional Committee on Ministry provides care, nurture, licensing and ordination for all ministers, regardless of ethnic origin or race.
- 3- Convocation joining Region in financial responsibility for an African American regional staff associate- Earl Murray, Sr. being the first.
- 4- Fifteen persons completing a 3 and 1/2 year Preacher Enrichment Study Program with fourteen being African American. Nine now serve congregations and six others are available..

## On Driving Through a Familiar Neighborhood *by Editor. Fox*

Last month the bright afternoon sun shining in Indianapolis was causing the tulips to slowly rise out of the ground. Before preparing to join many others in attending the Harold Watkins Retirement Celebration, Mrs. Fox and I yielded to the temptation to do a windshield survey of the Irvington Eastside Community.

We headed the old Ford in that direction, passing our former church of membership, Downey Avenue, and paused for a quick look at the Board of Church Extension across the street.

Circling the old Mission Building with its elegant signs and symbols still in place, we mused about the good and bad times of yesteryears.

After a slow cruise past the humble abode that used to be ours and a glimpse of other domiciles once owned by Mission Building colleagues, we were pleased to see younger families making good use of space both inside and out.

As we headed South on Downey past other familiar places we felt good in the knowledge that retired former colleagues Julia S. Fangmeier, Pat Nottingham and Ian McCrae, still residents in Irvington, are performing key roles in the Irvington Community Council. They are among those striving to establish senior citizen housing

on the former Missions Building site.

As we continued along the route I once used for jogging Shaft, my red Doberman, or ride my Fuji bicycle, we stopped at the Johnson Street Apartments and the Presbyterian Church. Then we continued across Washington Street by those beautiful homes which ring the Methodist Church.

People were on the side walks and working on the lawns. Others filled the golf links nearby strolling the hills with eyes trained on the flight of balls.

Most importantly, the churches, the Young Men's Christian Association and many home-owners were much in evidence. They reflected commitment to the founda-

tional values of good community. The Irvington appeared alive and not dead.

We went to Eastgate Mall for a small purchase, but didn't have time to test the Y. M. C. A.'s gym, physical fitness equipment, famed indoor track or Olympic sized swimming pool. These too indicate the foundational values of firm community.

It has been reported that Missions Building has been "decommissioned" and its inhabitants moved elsewhere. It appears, however, that other parts of the church and human community foundations remain hardy in Irvington. There is promise of a new "commissioning" for the former Missions Building site and all those in Irvington willing to maintain wholesome community.

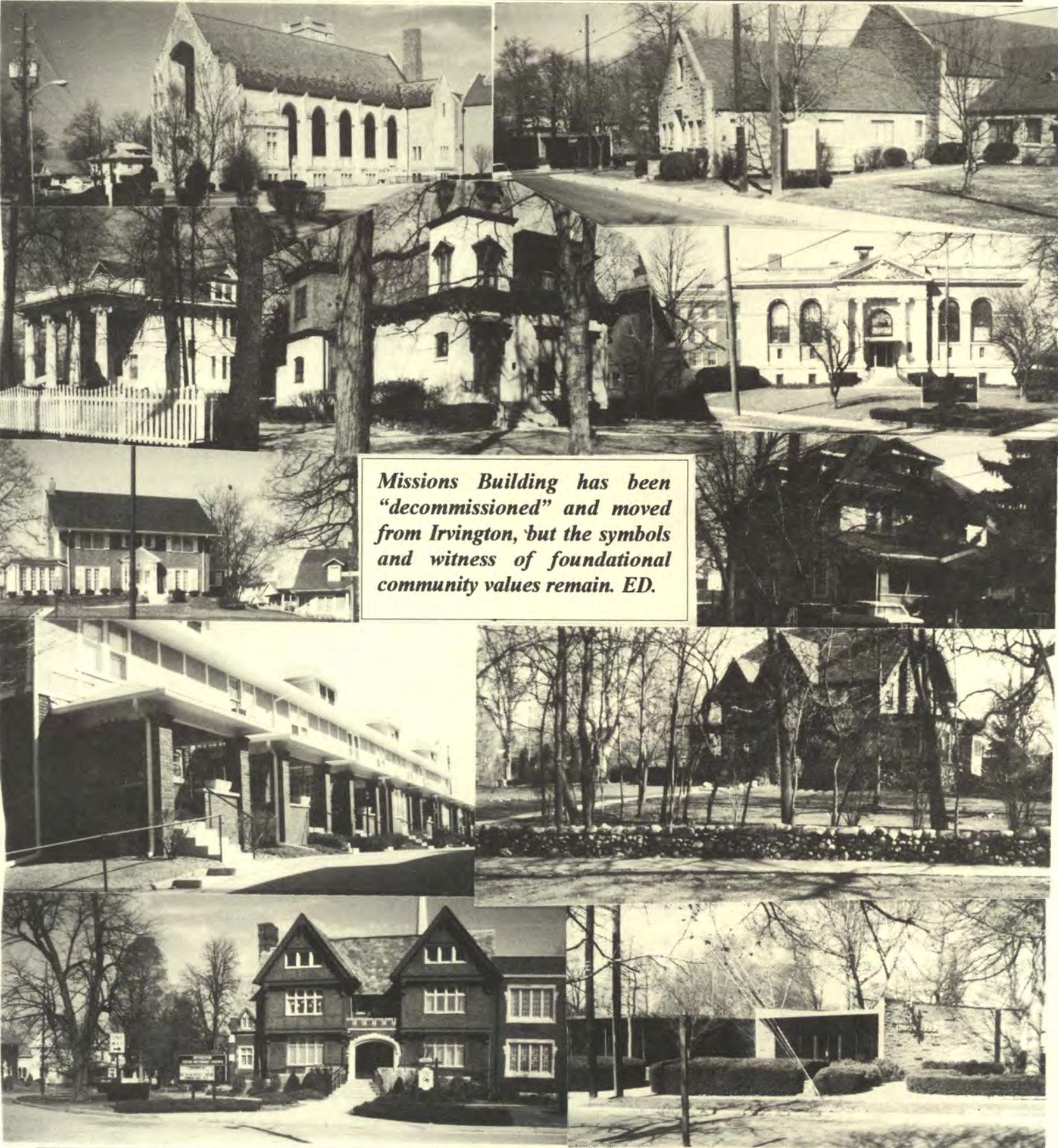
### Board of Church Extension Directors Confirm Plan to Sell Their Office Complex

Indianapolis, IN- In BCE BOARD NOTES covering the March 13-14, 1995 meeting, it was announced that plans for the 37 year old office complex were approved. The circular shaped complex is to be sold to "Traders' Connection, an east-side bulletin board network with online publications from more than 40 communities in North America."

According to BCE President-Elect James L. Powell, "Traders' Connection, a division of The Trader Enterprises has experienced significant growth in its electronic classified and bulletin board service."

Powell stated that they (BCE) will be "joining general unit colleagues in the new building and working together in ways that go beyond proximity." They (BCE) plan to move in June 1995.

# Viewing the Irvington Community, Indianapolis 1995



*Missions Building has been "decommissioned" and moved from Irvington, but the symbols and witness of foundational community values remain. ED.*

**Mature citizens still walk their dogs- Others take their walk- Churches provide their services- Stores sell their products.**

*Important*



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

**S**t. Louis, MO-Lewis Property, Jr. who was born July 18, 1941 and died January 18, 1995- Faithful member and usher in Centennial Christian Church. He was a memorable witness to the truth that sincere Christian love and nurture can enable one to withstand lifetime limitations of mind and body. Lewis survived both parents and maternal grandparents to live a rewarding and satisfying life within a supportive non-institutional framework. Pastor Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. was the officiant at the January 19th. memorial service held at the church.

**C**olumbus, MO- Woodrow Whitlow who died January 31, 1995 at age 77 following a prolonged bout with cancer. Ten years ago he was one of the "founding fathers" of the Rockbridge Christian Church. Formerly a key lay leader of Memorial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO, he and his wife, Mildred, continued their devoted Christian discipleship during his last 15 years of retirement as a resident in NBA affiliated Lenoir Homes.

Whitlow had held offices of moderatorship in the congregation and St. Louis District; membership on a variety of committees and boards including the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the General Church Church reconciliation

Steering Committee. He was chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the St. Louis General Assembly in 1979.

As a loyal colleague of Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., pastor of Centennial Christian Church and the late Norman S. Ellington he prompted the Christian Men's Fellowship of Memorial Church to contribute sizeable amounts of money to the Star Supporter Fund (i. e. a grant program supporting ethnic minorities preparing for ministry.)

Woody was also a colleague of Ellington's in starting "Mother-to-Mother" programs in the Mid-America Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

He was memorialized in a service held at Rockbridge led by Minister Maureen Dickman..

**S**t. Louis, MO-Angelica Nelson Hart, who was born October 19, 1927 died suddenly February 10, 1995. She had been a faithful member of Centennial Christian Church since 1949. She was a teacher in the St. Louis public school system for 37 years.

She leaves to mourn her loss her devoted husband, Alfred (Bobby) Hart and three daughters, Sheryl Angelica, Jennifer Ann and Diana Marie, four grandchildren, two sons-in-law, one sister and

brother and many associate kin. Senior Pastor Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. was the officiant at the February 15 memorial service and delivered the eulogy.

**R**aymore, MO-\*Pearle K. Gordon, Mrs. Gordon died February 22, 1995 and was memorialized February 27, 1995; the day which would have been her 99th. birthday.

Herbert P. Davis of Blue Springs, MO gave the eulogy based mainly on Psalm 23 and son-in-law Roland Huff of Jacksonville, FL, read the background scriptures and gave the prayer.

Wayne and Ruby Beeney of Foxwood Springs provided appropriate music.

A brief review of her life was rendered by Kathryn Huff, her only daughter and off spring. Kitty traced her mother's journey from the rural town of Plattsburg, MO in February 1896 to her preparation to becoming a school teacher in the public schools of rural Missouri. Her husband, Jack Gordon, died early in their marriage. Left to mourn her death are children, Roland Huff, Jr and Kay Jones, three great grandchildren, and several related kin.

She was devoted to her extended family which includes persons

See NEXT PAGE

at Foxwood where she was nearly a charter resident having lived there for more than 15 years.

In addition she proudly claimed three ministers who served faithfully within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Roland Huff, the husband of her only off spring, Kathryn, retired as president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society; Sheldon Shirts, who married Miriam, another sister of Roland Huff, retired as a New Testament professor at Phillips Seminary, Enid, OK; and Herbert Davis, who married Eileen another sister of Roland Huff, retired after many years of successful pastorates in Missouri and Oklahoma.

The family gave each person attending the memorial service a beautiful rose as they departed. It was the disease's favorite flower.

**Jackson, MS-Freddie Boyd**, member of United Christian Church who died February 20, 1995 from injuries suffered on his municipal job. He was in his 18th. year of employment for the city of Jackson. A brother-in-law, Thomas Harris, pastor of Christian Chapel Church, Port Gibson, MS, brought the eulogy. Services were held February 25 in United Christian Church where he had membership. Freddie Boyd was a devoted husband and father who made substantial contributions to the development

of a strong family. Among those mourning his loss are his wife, Ada who is director of the pre-school children's program sponsored by United Christian Church, one brother, six children, several grandchildren, related kin and a host of friends.

**\*Virginia Liggett in Claremont, CA**, confronting serious physical limitations under the watch care of her husband, Thomas J. Liggett.- former missionary and president of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN.



## Let Us Pray For-



**\*Olive Long, Pamona, CA**, contending with a badly fractured hip and widow of the late John Long, school administrator and faculty for one of our former home missions institutions- Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS.

**\*Emmett J. and Thelma Dickson, Indianapolis, IN**- both suffering from long-standing physical difficulties. Thelma has entered the Robin Run Retirement Community and Emmett is now in the Springfield Nursing Home- both in Indianapolis. (This is also the residence of Mrs. **Zellie Peoples**.) Both are retired General Church leaders.

**\*Rolland Shafer, Jacksonville, FL**, confronting a serious illness. (A former president of the Board of Church Extension)

**\*Charles Berry, Grambling, LA**, president emeritus of Jarvis Christian College, facing physical difficulties..



## Speaking About Money-

**D**ONATIONS SINCE LAST ISSUE: Bertha/Frisco Gilchrist, Mary/Roger Frey, Garnett/Carolyn Day, William/Thelma Pyatt, Harold/Evelyn Watkins, Charles/Irene Mills, Joseph/Winnifred Smith, Mary A. Glover, Indianapolis, IN; Russell H. Myers, Fort Worth, TX; Lucille Morrison, Hannibal, MO; Robert L. Jordan, Detroit, MI; Donald O. Legg, St. Louis, MO; Robert Clarke Brock, Seattle, WA; Thomas/Jo Ellen Johns, Leawood, KS; Mary E. Clift, Hawkins, TX; Joseph/Rebecca Galloway, Chatham, VA; Cornelius/Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; Della M. January, Springfield, OH Robert/Diane Steffer, Guelph, Ontario

**PLEASE NOTE!**

This May-June issue of **THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE** may be arriving a little early for you. The editor/manager and wife are trying to get it out before they return to Jarvis Christian College to resume their commitment to give on-site volunteer services.

You may be receiving a "Call for Help" from us soon. It will be opportunity for you to become a part of something meaningful at an historic institution. Please make a positive response!

### Senior Minister's Wives Endowment

**Lucile A. Compton (Cincinnati, OH) and Alpha P. Arnold (Los Angeles, CA)** recently issued facts about the successful effort to establish the National Christian Missionary Convention Ministers' Wives/National Convocation Ministers' Wives through 1988 Endowed Scholarship Fund at Christian Theological Seminary.

*The Fund aids seminary students and honors twenty senior wives and is in memorial for six deceased members.*

As of March 1995 the fund had \$5,780. Gifts should be sent continually to CTS in Indianapolis.

Published six times a year via donations

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PHone: 816-331-7323 or FAX: 816-331-7181*

### Word from Our Canadian Oldtimers- *The Steffers*

**ROBERT:** After leaving Missions Building in 1986, he became regional minister for Canada and has just completed eight years. He was promoted to Colonel in the U. S. Army Reserve, served as a reserve hospital chaplain in Detroit until 1992, and officially retired from the military upon reaching the age of 60 in June, 1994.

He serves on the board of directors of the Religious Education Association in the U.S. and Canada, and the board of directors of the Church Finance Council, and has served as Chair of the Committees on Ministry

and Nominations of the Conference of Regional Ministers and Moderators.

**DIANE:** After serving for three years as Office Secretary for the regional office, was asked to serve as interim minister for Hillcrest Christian Church, Toronto beginning May 1 for a few months until they found a new pastor. They have put the search on hold and she has been asked to stay on for 1995, with a new pastor being in place for 1996.

She was elected President of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, and served a two year term from 1992 to 1994.

Once, while visiting with friends in Prince Edward Island, I discovered, on an old map, the exact location of the farm where A. McLean grew up. From this secluded and distant place, a man went forth to contribute so much to the cause of world mission.

All the best- BOB

*NOTE: Those of us who have been associated with the Steffers in ministry know that they have contributed much to world mission. They used to service in Jamaica. We are glad to hear from them and wish them God's speed.*

**EDITOR**

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#### *Inside This Issue*

*\*Race Relations in the Deep South*

*\*Driving Through a Familiar  
Neighborhood*

*\*For Whom the Bells Toll*

# ◆ The Oldtimers' Grapevine ◆

Volume V - No. 4

July - August, 1995

Raymore, Missouri

## Wayne Selsor, Retired But *Still Climbing Up on Platforms!*

**R**aymore, MO- Born in Springfield, MO during the second decade of this century, Wayne Selsor gave early indications of his destiny to be a unique preacher endowed with several artistic talents. He climbed into the ministry at age three when he escaped from his mothers lap during worship services and crawled up on the elevated platform where the action seemed to be and wrapped his arms around the leg of his Uncle Frank West.

His first art achievement came at seven when his grandmother taught him how to make braided rugs for a birthday gift for his mother. He went on to grow richly in both the pulpit and art.

Today Wayne and his wife, Geneve, of 51 years are highly regarded residents in the retirement community of Foxwood Springs Living Center. Geneve's professional life was as a librarian and teacher at junior high levels. She was the author of a "Future Studies curriculum used across the U.S. and other nations.

Wayne moved from being called the Little Onion Boy at eight from selling onions, to building a lum-



ber yard with his family. He was subsequently forced to take over after his father's unexpected death.

Meantime he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Drury College and accepted a scholarship to the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago in 1942. A pastorate in Irving, TX followed seminary. He was later employed to recruit students for church vocations by Drake University in Des Moines, IA and then accepted a staff position with the Nebraska Council of Churches. Pastorates in Denver and Galveston, and a new campus ministry in Lubbock, TX were in the intervening years.

During more than 56 years of ministry the above assignments were augmented by some 36 interims in 30 congregations.. Though he has always been climbing up on

platforms and getting involved where the action is, he has also found time for serious engagement as a silver and goldsmith, jeweler and sculptor, for more than 30 pieces sited across the United States.

Wayne says, "My expressions in art are simply another facet of my ministry. My art is a pictorial sermon... It is the nature of the creative act to produce the unusual, the startling even the shocking... To view art is not an event; it is an experience."

Before coming to Foxwood Springs, Selsor's Bellevue, Neb. suburban home was set on a steep hill in the midst of the Fonteville Forest area. The infirmities of age were threatening the health of both the Selsors so options were investigated. They chose an option in 1992 which led them to Foxwood Springs in Raymore, MO and a new home and new life. Retiring from church duties and preaching, Selsor gave more time to art projects.

For example, he has refined a logo of the Landis Child Care Center at Foxwood Springs and produced an "Intergenerational Family" sculpture out of steel and stone. Three figures have been interwoven on a four foot piece of steel to

See SELSOR, Page 8

## Senior Citizen Volunteers Spark First Jarvis H. O. M.

**H**awkins, TX- Responding to the call of President Sebetha Jenkins and retired church administrator and project designer William K. Fox, Sr. of Raymore, MO, five senior citizen volunteers and a young adult pastor and Jarvis alumnus came to Jarvis with their tools and commitment to energize the first Jarvis HANDS-ON-MISSION event June 19 - 24, 1995. More than 250 persons, including college faculty, summer students, community persons, financial donors and special summer program youth, were eventually involved some way in the project.

Under the patient supervision of On-Site Coordinator Cecil Higgs, Vice-President for Student Affairs at Jarvis, John and Mildred Cain of Bartlesville, OK, Glenn and Charlotte Shoemaker of Raymore, MO, both couples veteran retired pastors and experienced volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and Tall Oaks Camp Grounds; Rolland Perry of Kansas City, KS, pastor of Fellowship Christian Church; Eugene Rutherford, Metro Fire Department Commissioner and experienced Tall Oaks Camp volunteer, and Project Designer William Fox, both of Raymore, MO, formed the initiating core group. President Jenkins participated fully and provided an affirming presence.

Annie Walker of Longview, TX, an English teacher in the public schools and former director of the Jarvis Alumni Association and Sherril Reddig, a Substance Control special staff member within the same public schools system, also joined the out-of-state volunteer core group. Together they initiated the manicuring of grounds and the cleaning of the interior and painting the walls of a student services center (formerly the James A. Aborne Health Center). In addition, the Shoemakers and Cains tuned up the interior of Heritage House, and Glenn Shoemaker and John Cain used their skills to construct portable platform units which will facilitate the production of special honors programs at the college.

When the action went inside for the painting of the Student Services Center, formerly known as the James A. Aborne Health Center, the core group was joined by others. Claude Walker, associate professor of religion at Jarvis came from Big Sandy, TX; William Cash, federal collections officer at Jarvis from Tyler, TX; Vernell Sturns, executive director of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and former Jarvis Board Chairman and his brother, Riley Sturns both from Fort Worth, TX.

Hawaiian Holland, Jarvis' interim maintenance superintendent, and associated employees were also available. Helping hands also came from work-study students in special summer programs and college administrators like Harold Abney, director of Financial Aid; Autry Acrey, interim vice-president for Academic Affairs; Delilah Hall, assistant to the President/Title III Coordination; and Edward L. Vaughn, vice-president for Fiscal Affairs; Linda Rutherford, director of Alumni Affairs; and Emma Strickland, executive secretary in the office of the President.

The energies expended by many volunteers whose age range was in the early to late seventies, encouraged intergenerational cooperation. Mrs. Zula Abney, Coordinator of the National Youth Sports Program which was also in operation on the campus, organized her 147 high school youths to assist. They formed a solid line east to west with plastic bags in hand to execute a mass campus pick-up trash action that moved from Highway 80 northward across the campus in twenty minutes. A brief inspirational intergenerational sharing period with the youths followed in the college chapel.

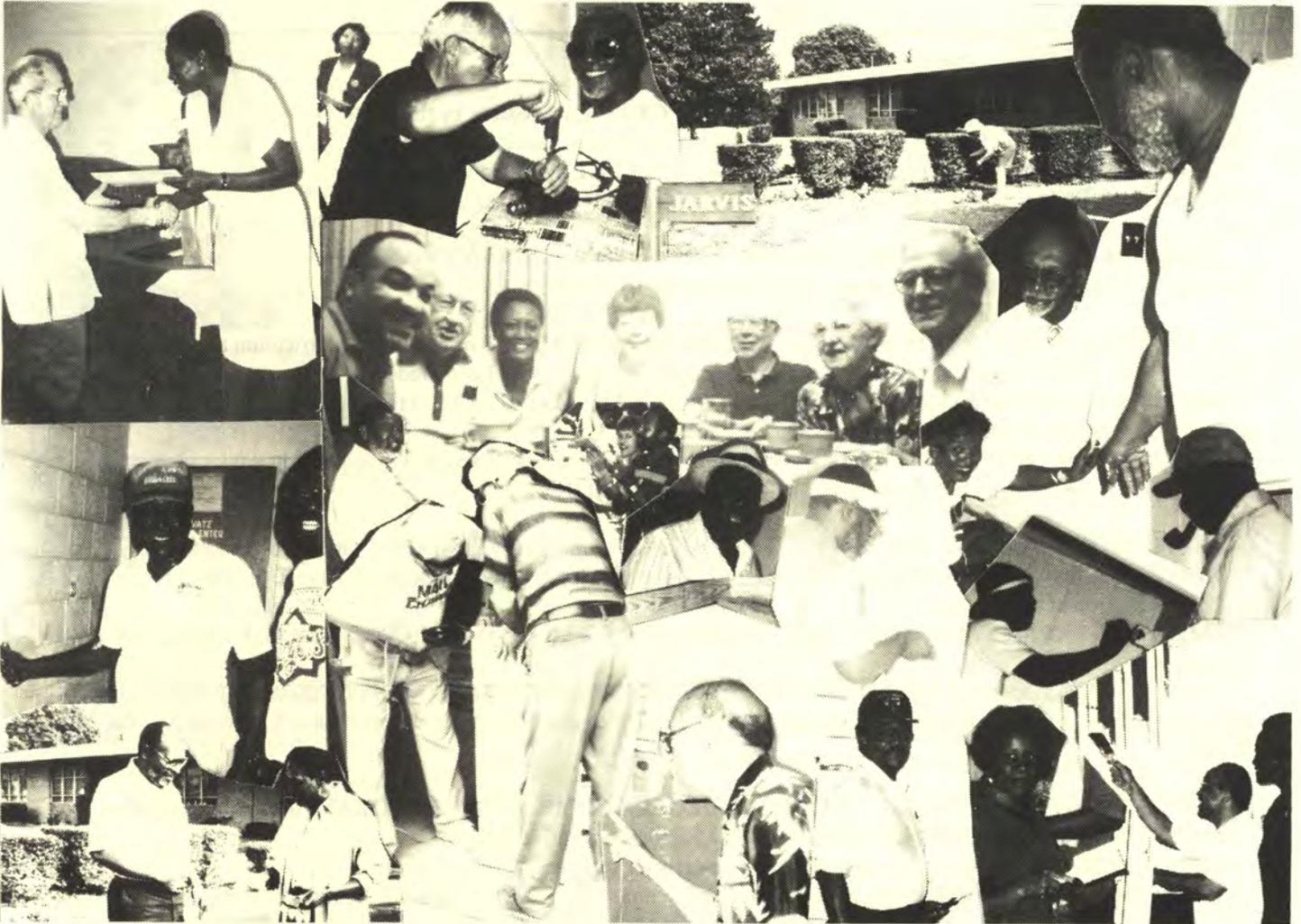
The spirit volunteerism set ablaze spilled over into Saturday when administrative staff and faculty, including a busy President Jenkins, joined First Christian Church Pastor Martin Foster of First Christian Church in Irving, TX and two of its lay member volunteers to paint the Frost Dormitory.

Further, as part of the response to H.O.M. thirty-four persons contributed \$2,485 toward the roofing of Heritage House and purchase of needed campus maintenance machinery. The gifts enabled the House to be roofed. If sufficient additional gifts are sent to Jarvis by August 1995 the much needed machinery will be purchased and other improvements made. (Note listing of givers to-date on page 6 of this issue.)

HANDS-ON-MISSION was not "all work and no play." The evenings were highlighted with a special dinner fellowship at the President's Residence, free-time to use the Olympic size swimming pool, a tour in the college bus narrated by the President, a tour of Annie's Bed and Breakfast House, Gift Shop and Dining Room, all in Big Sandy, TX.

Participants learned that the Jarvis campus took up approximately 200 acres; that the virgin land owned to the south of the cam-

## Views of "Hands On" = Agape Love & Joy in Sharing



*(From Previous Page)-*

pus was twice as large as the campus and contained the sewage plant, a lake full of pan fish, and many unlawful deer stands; that once upon a time Jarvis had 25 oil wells pumping but not any more. Twelve years ago income from oil was between two and three million dollars. Today it is much less than \$230,000! That land owned by the school elsewhere brings the total owned to a little over 1000 acres.

Everybody involved would have been physically drained if it had not been for Delores Acosta of Marriott Food Services who provided substantial meals for all who labored. Lela H. Jackson, Coordinator of Special Events and Dorothy C. Brown, co-director of residential life, also contributed by bringing in community volunteers and students to serve as helpers. Finally participants were undergirded by a spirit of wholesome community and fellowship which was encouraged by Denice Spivey, the College Church Pastor, and his wife, Sandra. During the mid-week evening service Pastor Spivey invited participants to observe nearly 100 summer program youths engage in an impromptu bible oriented rap session on "Violence."

During the closing dinner program moderated by On-Site Coordinator Cecil Higgs, Assistant to the President Delilah Hall, aided the President in presenting certificates and tokens of appreciation to the H.O.M. participants. Dr. Jenkins proposed that the dates of May 19-24, 1996 be considered for the next HANDS-ON-MISSION event. The Rev. Rolland Perry, pastor of Fellowship Christian Church, Kansas City, KS, an alumnus of Jarvis, was asked to be the 1996 National Coordinator.

## WHAT EVERY SENIOR ADULT CHURCH MEMBER CAN TELL THEIR GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT JARVIS?

by Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, President

### TELL THEM THAT ....

\*\*\*

\***JARVIS IS A FOUR YEAR LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE** fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the baccalaureate degree.

\***JARVIS IS THE ONLY HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE** affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and recruiting students regardless of race, color or ethnic origin.

\***JARVIS OFFERS PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS** to members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Total cost for a student at Jarvis is less than \$10,000 per year.

\*\*\*

\***A NATIONAL PUBLICATION RANKS JARVIS AS NUMBER THREE** in quality of curriculum and program offerings for the top 20 colleges and universities with an enrollment fewer than 2,000 students.

\***JARVIS WAS LISTED AMONG THE TOP 100 COLLEGES** and universities in the nation in 1994 in the number of graduates with a major in the physical sciences.

\***JARVIS IS ONE OF ONLY 40 COLLEGES** and universities in the nation selected to implement a pilot project to mainstream math and science into the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP).

\*\*\*

\***JARVIS HAS ENDED THE LAST TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS (1993 and 1994)** with a clean audit.

\***JARVIS HAD 20% OF ITS STUDENT BODY** in 1994-95 to achieve a 3.00 grade point average or higher providing a good representation of the academically prepared and motivated student.

\***JARVIS OFFERS MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS** to students based upon high school grade point averages.

\***JARVIS OFFERS AN ADVANCED SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (ASEP)** for graduating high school seniors the summer before their initial fall semester. ASEP students earn six hours of college credit in classes during the summer.

\*\*\*

\***JARVIS OFFERS AN ACCELERATED ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM** for mid-career adults.

\***JARVIS PROVIDES HONORS RESIDENCE HALLS** for male and female scholars.

\***JARVIS PROVIDES** single-parent apartments on-campus for male and female students.

\***JARVIS HOUSES AN APPROVED HEAD START Program** in its Early Childhood Education Center.

\*\*\*

\***JARVIS SCHOLARS PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER RESEARCH** activities at such institutions of higher education as Baylor College, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the University of Texas, New York University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

\***JARVIS OFFERS DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS** in engineering in cooperation with the University of Texas at Arlington and in nursing in cooperation with the University of Texas at Tyler.

\*\*\*

\***JARVIS HAS 42 full-time faculty members** and 51% of them hold terminal degrees.

\***JARVIS HAS A FACULTY-STUDENT** ratio of 1:13 increasing opportunities for personalized instruction.

\***JARVIS HAS MAJOR sports** for men and women like baseball, basketball, volleyball, track, soccer, tennis, and swimming. They require conference memberships and competition.

\*\*\*

\***JARVIS IS THE HOME OF** the reigning 1994-95 "Miss National United Negro College Fund Queen." Contestants from Jarvis have won 8 of the last 10 National UNCF Contests!

\*\*\*

\***JARVIS PLACES 97%** of its graduates in employment, graduate or professional school opportunities.

\***JARVIS COUNTS AMONG ITS GRADUATES** a United States military general, college presidents and professors, entrepreneurs, key church leaders, and corporate managers.

\***JARVIS PRESIDENT SEBETHA JENKINS** is a Presidential appointee. She received a highly select appointment by President Bill Clinton to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

**Chicago, IL-** **George William Washington**, a most faithful member of Park Manor Christian Church, who was born October 30, 1911 and died suddenly Easter, April 16, 1995 following attendance at the morning worship. Family and friends report that this Easter Sunday morning Mr. Washington took every opportunity to sing a Christian song with unusual enthusiasm.



The Memorial Service was held April 20, 1995 in the Park Manor Christian Church of Chicago with The Rev. James L. Demus, III officiating. The Chancel Choir rendered music and several lay and clergy leaders from the congregation participated in the liturgy and served as pallbearers.

Though both of George Washington's parents had died from natural causes by the time he was three, he was nurtured well by a loving aunt, Emma Tounsel. Motivated by this aunt who taught school and an uncle who owned and operated a grocery, George completed high school at Southern Christian Institute in Edwards,

MS. He went on to receive his B. S. degree at Alabama State Teachers College.

George Washington claimed singing as a primary passion. When he finished high school, he toured with the "Cotton Blossom Singers" of Piney Woods Industrial School. One year he organized a group from both Piney Woods and Southern Christian Institute to go on a singing tour to raise funds for both schools. One of the "boys" in that group was Emmett J. Dickson, who later became an outstanding Disciples of Christ minister and leader.

After five years of teaching in the public school system of Shaw, MS and a happy marriage to Clytee Burt of the same city, he moved to Chicago in 1943. After 35 years of service as employee of the United

States Postal Service, he retired. Throughout this period he maintained faithful Christian discipleship through membership at the Indiana Avenue Christian Church, now known as Park Manor Christian Church. He served as deacon, trustee, elder, church treasurer, singer and friend.

His most treasured affiliation was membership in the congregation's Sanctuary Choir.

Few ever heard him say a negative word about anything or anybody who walked by his side.

He leaves to mourn his loss, wife, Clytee; sister-in-law, Doris Sanders; nephews and nieces, cousins, and many close friends, like the C. W. and Alpha Arnold's, who he has hallowed through the years.

### Margaret Starn Follows Husband to Reward

**Columbia, MO-** **Margaret Starn of Lenoir Homes**, an esteemed member and leader in several aspects of church. According to a statement released by her children, she "relinquished her frailties and life on planet earth at 11:15 a.m., Saturday, March 15, 1995. While her physical being diminished over the passage of time, her spirit of love and caring remained steadfast."

Among her many roles played in the church, she served on the first General Church Reconciliation Steering Committee. She was an able co-leader along side her late husband, the Rev. William (Bill) Starn.

She leaves to mourn her loss two daughters, Shirley Starn Cosgrove and Kathy Starn Helme, and son, Peter Starn; other kin and friends.

## FORMER FULL-TIME SERVANTS

**H**al **Idor E. Heimer** (May 4, 1995) Indianapolis, IN, retired missionary to Zaire (formerly Belgian Congo), Africa and recognized student of indigenous African religious groups. Hal's formal preparation began with a liberal arts degree from Manhattan College, KS. He matriculated to Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY where he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree, followed with a Master's degree from Butler University in Indianapolis, IN. His early and student ministries included pastorates in Disciples of Christ congregations in Flat Rock and Little Eagle Creek, IN.

Following completion of his Ph.D. work at Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CON, he and his wife, Ruth were commissioned by the Overseas Division of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve in the Belgian Congo, Now Zaire, Africa. They spent 26 years in the Congo providing field education for rural pastors and church leaders; working on the staff of the United Theological School sponsored by the Presbyterians, Methodists and Disciples; and later on the faculty of the University of Zaire.

Following his return from the field he joined with others to establish a support group in the States for Christians striving to develop stability and progress in Zaire. Dr. Heimer sustained a life long inter-

est in a quest for human justice. During his Indianapolis residency he was a dedicated leader in the Citizens Action Coalition. His lifetime commitment to human betterment is carried on by a devoted wife, Ruth, a resident in Robin Run; an oldest son, Hal, Jr. in North Terry Town, N.Y.; daughter, Carroll Heimer, a professor employed by Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; and the youngest son, David, a resident of Richardson, TX.

**Other Retired Servants in Home and Overseas Mission Depart:** **T. T. Swearingen** (March 5, 1995), St. Louis, MO- retired regional staff; **Noel V. Blankenship, Sr.** (March 19, 1995), Indianapolis, IN- retired pastor; **Charles E. Crank, Jr.** (April 6, 1995), Lynchburg, VA- retired regional minister and vet-

eran officer for Regional Ministers and Moderators organization; ; and **Glen E. Ewing** (May 10, 1995) Fairhope, AL, retired administrator for general church finance units.



**Ozark Range, Sr.**, retired general church staff, Indianapolis, IN, whose brother, Willie Range, Jr. of Canton, MI who died June 6, 1995. **Verbie Rand**, wife of retired Jarvis President Rand of Marshall, TX, who required emergency medical services in June 1995. **Emmett J. Dickson**, retired general church staff, who continues in a declining condition in an Indianapolis nursing home.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO-DATE TO JARVIS H.O.M. SHORT-TERM CAPITAL FUNDS APPEAL:

Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, Fort Worth, TX; Mr. Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C.; Dr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Newborn, Sr., Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Sere S. Myers, Kansas City, MO; Mrs. May S. Lord, Chicago, IL; Ms Amy Hohman, Louisville, KY; Dr. and Mrs. William K. Fox, Sr., Raymore, MO; Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hall, Raymore, MO; Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Frazier, Raymore, MO; Mrs. Flo Kallenbach, Raymore, MO; Dr. Lorenzo Evans, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. and Mrs. E. Gilford Olmsted, Raymore, MO; Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Williams; Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Berry, Grambling, LA; Dr. and Mrs. Earl W. Rand, Marshall, TX; Mr. Hugh W. Bellas, Raymore, MO; Ms. Bess R. Terry, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Ms Eliza Cave, Oklahoma City, OK; and Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, Hawkins, TX.

**(Checks are sent to the President at Jarvis Christian College.)**

## OTHER "MISSION" MATTERS:

**Donors since the last OLDTIMERS' issue:** Mary Behtel, Sun Lake, AZ; Chester/Edith Sil-lars, Jacksonville, FL; Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO; Phil/Jenean Enz, Homeland Min-istries, Disciples Center, Indi-anapolis, IN; Ellis/J. Louise Jordan, Rubye L. Washington, Har-vey/Sybel Thomas, Chicago, IL; Eugene/Bonnie Frazier, Raymore, MO; Walter/Grace Giffin, Sun City, AZ; Lorraine Dudley, St. Louis, MO; Dorothy E. Wilbert, Dayton, OH; Bessie R. Stone, Cincinnati, OH; Ida Mae Dotson, Sr., Vicksburg, MS; Berda R. Sewell, Kansas City, MO; Oscar Haynes, Rockville, MD; Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO.

### Sturdy Veteran Expires

**Raymore, MO- Hobart Sweat,** born in Sugargrove, KY, in De-cember, 1897, a resident in the licensed health center of Fox-wood Springs, for less than a month, died in a local infirmary June 29, 1995. Memorial services were held at Central Christian Church, Kansas City, MO, where he was an honored member. Pas-tor Deloris Turner, officiated. He served the congregation in vari-ous capacities including that of trustee. Following retirement from government services he es-tablished his own lawn mainte-nance business. He leaves a dear wife Dorothy and distant kin. The durability of Hobart inspired oth-ers to face life issues.

### A Reader Responds:

Dear Editor:

Thank you for gathering news of many people whom I remember but would not otherwise hear about these days. You are doing a helpful and interesting service for many of us oldtimers.

The page of scenes in the Irving-ton community of Indianapolis brought a twinge of nostalgia to me. For twenty-eight years I lived in Irvington and enjoyed those winding streets and gra-cious old homes. Looking back on those years I feel we were fortunate to live and work out there, avoiding the noise and smog of downtown. Now I'm lucky again to live at the edge of expanding Columbia on the quiet (more or less) streets of Lenoir Retirement Center. Keep up the good work...

**Louise Moseley**

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**PHONE: 816-331-7323 or FAX: 816-331-7181**

## From Page 1- SELSOR, Cleric/Artist- Still Climbing Up on Platforms

suggest a child-parent-grandparent relationship. The Selsors brought all the sculptures in their collection to Foxwood and refined them with more polish and paint. They are placed throughout the Foxwood grounds. Some look at them with great puzzlement and Wayne enjoys receiving a variety of responses.

Selsor says "The deepest meanings of true art are a compound of the pieces of presence and all the viewer brings to the occasion." Whenever an onlooker dares to ask him "What does that mean?" that person is most certain to get the patented Selsor response: "It means whatever you think it means to you!" "Meaning in abstract art," says Selsor, "is whatever the viewer brings to it and sees in it..."

His latest project has been the erection of an environmental



*Selsor's "The Kansas Corner" "...walk among the stones...enter into their age"*

sculpture called "The Kansas Corner." It is a cluster of huge stone Kansas fence posts quarried by the Plains pioneers in lieu of the absent wooden posts. At some 400 pounds in weight, six feet tall, and nearly a foot square, they are an impressive group.

"Environmental Sculpture" means you are invited to become a part of it. The viewer is invited to walk among them and inspect their

color, surfaces, shapes- to enter their age-old environment. You can "walk among the stones, inspect the ocean bed animals; worms and mollusks. Million year old shells are still sealed to the stone..Check the holes and wires for the pioneers' fencing. Imagine the enormous amount of work involved in fencing even one field."

Wayne is chair of the Foxwood Springs Fine Arts Committee.

**The Oldtimers' Grapevine**  
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# ◆ The Oldtimers' Grapevine ◆

Volume V - No. 5

September - October, 1995

Raymore, Missouri

## Emmett J. Dickson: 1909 - 1995: A Homegoing Celebration!

**I**ndianapolis, IN- Emmett James Dickson was born in Crockett, TX May 4, 1909 as the first born child of Lizzie DeLane Dickson and Davis Monroe Dickson. Monday, August 7, 1995, after a sustained illness for several months, he departed from our world but not our hearts. August 14 a celebrative homegoing memorial service was led by Senior Pastor T. Garrott Benjamin as a representative group of friends and associates from more than ten states provided a supportive circle around his surviving wife, Thelma Dickson and daughter, Duryea Callaway.

For more than 50 years he was a faithful member of Second (now Light of the World) Christian Church. He received primary and secondary education in the public schools of Houston, TX. Later he received an Associate of Arts Degree from Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS (now merged with Tougaloo College, Edwards, MS). He earned a Bachelor of Sacred Literature Degree and Master of Arts Degree from Butler University, Indianapolis, IN.



*He provided leadership for developing the five-fold principles of sharing which challenged the institutional church to move toward wholeness.*

Dickson was ordained to the Christian ministry as a young man in Texas by Dr. Sere S. Myers who adopted Emmett as one of his "Timothy's." Emmett began his career as a teacher and chairperson of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Lincoln Institute, Lincoln Ridge, KY and

### *Inside This Issue*

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Toward a Vanishing Ministry- 8-10

I Would Do it Again- 11-12

Donors - Page 12

## Friends from East Coast, South and Midwest Attend

Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. While at Jarvis he met fellow teacher, Thelma Ellen Chatman. They were united in holy matrimony August 23, 1969 and to this union was born one daughter, Duryea.

Through the urging of Dr. S. S. Myers, who had been elected president of the National Christian Missionary Convention, the family moved to Indianapolis in 1945 where Dr. Dickson assumed the position of the first Executive Secretary of the National Convention. He held that position for twenty-five years until the restructuring process in the church in 1969 caused the National Christian Missionary Convention to cease as an organization providing staff program services to congregations. Other Convention functions were immediately passed on to a new structure called the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

He provided leadership in developing the five-fold merger principles of sharing which challenged the institutional church to move toward wholeness.

*Continue on Page 2*

“Enoch walked with God and was no more because God took him.”

From Page 1:

Dickson joined the Department of Evangelism and Membership in the Division of Homeland Ministries as the Director of Field Services. He was a relentless visitor in local congregations, districts and regional gatherings. Special interest was taken in those congregations in the South; especially those known as the Disciple Assemblies of Eastern North Carolina. His responsibility was to give leadership in evangelistic motivation, planning and executing of programming through meetings with ministers and laymen. He retired from this position in June 1974 but not from making similar field visitations, interim ministries, and service at Jarvis Christian College as the Campus Minister and Lecturer in Religion and Philosophy.

Jarvis honored Emmett Dickson by conferring the Honorary Doctor of Human Letters and Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree upon him. He was further cited by the college in 1983 by the naming of the Peoples-Dickson Class Building in his honor. Finally, just before becoming ill in late 1994, he was inducted into Jarvis' first program for the "Pioneers Hall of Fame."

Those who remain to cherish his rich life include his loving wife, Thelma, resident in Robin Run, Indianapolis, IN; a daughter, Duryea Calloway, a librarian and archivist, West Bloomfield, MI;

grandson, Louis M. Callaway, III, also West Bloomfield; one brother, Melvin Dickson, retired pastor of Warren Avenue CC, Dallas, TX; one sister, Gertude Dickson Frisco, Houston, TX; three nephews, one niece and many friends and associates.

\*\*\*\*\*

WALKING WITH GOD

by T. Garrott Benjamin  
(Excerpts from Eulogy)

*“Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him.” Genesis 5:24 “By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. And without faith it is impossible to please God.”.. Hebrews 11:5-6*

I. Enoch walked with God. Em-

mett walked with God. To walk with God is an indication of friendship with God...Emmett was under mandate to preach the Gospel.. Oral Hershizer once said "Christianity is called a spiritual walk. It is not a run or a jog, it's a walk that you take each day that brings stability.." Isaiah 40 said it this way: "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

II. Enoch walked with God. It takes time to be holy. To walk with God not only signals friendship but also fellowship and relationship. You cannot stay where you are and walk with God. You have to progress. Enoch walked with God. Emmett walked with God. The hymn says "He walks

\*\*\*\*\*  
★ *“Oh I guess I’ll last a little while longer.” E. J. D.* ★  
★ Attendants at Memorial Service Confirm His Prophecy. ★  
\*\*\*\*\*

**W**hen asked about his well-being, the deceased would often reply **“Oh I guess I’ll last a little while longer.”** The following persons listed are examples of the many attending to reaffirm their Discipleship of Christ and assure Dr. Dickson’s prophecy:

**From Texas:** James Griffin, president of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship; Claude Maples, pastor of Romine Christian Church, Dallas; L. B. Facen, pastor of the decease's brother, Melvin at Warren Avenue Christian Church, Dallas; **From Alabama:** Rufus Lewis, Jr pastor of Macedonia CC and past officer for the National Convocation, Birmingham; Robert Brown, pastor United CC., Montgomery and past president of the National Convocation; **From Tennessee:** Alvin O. A. O.Jackson, pastor of Mississippi Boulevard CC, Edgar A. Wallace,

“By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death...he had pleased God.”

From Page 2:

With me and talks with me and tells me I am his own. The joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known." Enoch walked with God. Emmett walked with God...They walked with God by faith! Enoch walked by faith; he was translated and never tasted death. Emmett walked by faith with the hope of the restoration of New Testament Christianity and the revival of the Christian Church.

III. Enoch pleased God. Emmett pleased God. Emmett was led by the Spirit ... It did not matter what others thought of him as long as he was acting in the Spirit. We will never forget him. Any moment now I will see him standing up... Without faith it is impossible to please God. Someone has defined faith as "the refusal to panic." Faith is my response to God's ability. Emmett's life was a continuous response to God's ability.

IV. None of us knows when the day will be, but ... time is of the essence. As John Wesley said: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can; in all the ways you can; in all the places you can; at all the times you can; to all the people you can; as long as you can."

Emmett walked with God. He walked by faith and pleased God. What a testimony! And like Elijah he received a just reward.

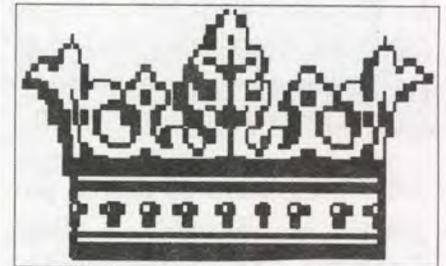
A SPECIAL WORD

"I'm grateful to you Mrs, Dickson, for the role that you have played in the life of our Church. Emmett Dickson could have never had the freedom or the mobility to be our Evangelist if you had not said, 'Yes!'...So we honor you today for who you are and whose you are." -Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin

OTHER TESTIMONIALS

National Convocation President, Timothy James; Christian Church Indiana Regional Minister, Edward Weisheimer; Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship President, James O. Griffin; Jarvis Christian College designated representative, Dr. Claude Walker; Deputy General Minister and President

for Inclusive Ministries and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation, Dr. John Foulkes; Acting Vice-President for the Educational Center, Division of Homeland Ministries, Dr. Raymond Brown; Retired general church staff in field of Christian Education, Dr. Lorenzo J. Evans; allied with the deceased for more than 50 years as a member of Second Christian (now Light of the World) C.C., Elizabeth Ennix; music by L.O.C.C. Golden Lights where deceased was the only male member; and lead soloist, Beverly Benjamin.



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★ Their Presence Confirmed Prophecy, from Page 2 ★

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pastor Bethel CC, Jonesborough; From South Carolina: Eliza Cave, lay leader, Bath; Joseph Cobb, pastor of Agape CC, Columbia; From North Carolina: James Melvin, pastor of Saint Mark CC, and veteran leader in Disciple Assemblies of Eastern North Carolina congregations, Goldsboro; J. O. Williams, Sr. Associate Regional Minister, Wilson; From Illinois: Dr. and Mrs. Dr. Daniel Heath, pastor First CC, Rockford;

From Ohio: Dr. and Mrs. John R. Compton, pastor of St. John CC, Cincinnati and retired president of the Division of Homeland Ministries; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Johnson, pastor of Summitt CC, Dorothy Wilbert, lay leader associated with the deceased in the work of the National Christian Missionary Convention, Dayton; Robert Dickerson, pastor of Bethany CC, Timothy M. James, pastor of Fifth CC and current Presi-

# Bells Toll for a Pioneering Teacher



**F**airfax, S. C.- Eunice Miller died June 13, 1995 and was memorialized at her home church, United Love, June 17. She was baptized at an early age in Cherry Grove Christian Church of Brunson, S. C. and developed into a widely respected leader who worked effectively in all levels of church life locally, in the region and nation.

After completion of degree programs at Benedict College, Columbia, S.C., Northwestern University, Evanston, IL and further study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, TN, she taught as a reading specialist for 24 years in public and private schools in South Carolina. Mrs. Miller was deeply involved in work with young people in the church. Her efforts led to the establishment of the Christian Youth Fellowship in South Carolina congregations and eventually an annual state camp and conference program.

Her successful leadership in the church led to her employment in

February 1965 as executive director of local fellowship field service for the Christian Women's Fellowship Department of the United Christian Missionary Society. After three years of faithful service she resigned August 26 1968 to go back to the public class room in Indianapolis.

She retired from teaching and returned to her home in Fairfax to become an active church member and chief founder of the new congregation known as United Love Christian Church.

Eunice Miller's Christian outreach included work with the First Congressional District of the Teachers Association; life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Retired Teacher Association; and the Commission Board for Den-

mark Technical College.

During the Thirteenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) August 9, 1994 in Kansas City, MO she was awarded the Liberation Award.

Mrs. Miller was a widow of the late Rev. S. H. Miller whom she married April 28, 1940. Among those mourning her loss is an adopted son, Artie Lee Bowen and several "extended family members" like Eliza H. Cave of Bath and Ruth Johnson of Fairfax.

United Love Christian Church Pastor W. M. Reese officiated. Charles Wright, Chairman of the Ministerial Board for the State Convention, brought the eulogy. The interment was in the United Love Church cemetery

\*\*\*\*\*  
 ★ **Their Presence Confirmed Prophecy, from Page 3** ★  
 ★\*\*\*\*\*

dent of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, Cleveland; **From Missouri:** Dr. and Mrs. William K. Fox, Sr., retired assistant to the General Minister and President and administrator of the National Convocation, Raymore; **From Kansas:** Titus H. James, pastor of North Heights CC and former president of the DHM Board of Directors, Wichita; **From Indiana:** James L. Powell, President of Board of Church Extension; Dr. Harold Watkins, retired President of BCE; Eugene Randall, II, General BCE Consultant; Robert K. Welsh, President of the Church Finance Council; L. Wayne Stewart, Adm. Dir. of Reconciliation, Church Finance Council; Julia Brown Karimu, Vice-President and executive secretary for Personnel; David A. Vargas, Executive Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Division of Overseas Ministries; Joyce B. Coalson, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Ministry, DHM; and Dr. Gerald Cunningham, Senior Associate, Dr.



## Bells Toll for Faithful Laity-



### HARVAY THOMAS: A SUDDEN DEPARTURE

**Harvay R. Thomas, Jr., Chicago, IL** oldest son of Harvey and Sybel Thomas, born February 28, 1949, suffered an aneurysm of the aorta July 10th. and, following extended hours of surgery died July 12, 1995. The graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology was a Revenue Officer in the Internal Revenue Service. Vitally interested in studying and playing several musical instruments, he also developed a serious concern in enrolling in the Oriental Institute to study hieroglyphics in connection with the African heritage from Bible times.

In recent years he became deeply involved as a lay leader in the Park Manor Christian Church. At the time of his death he was an elder, member of the Chancel Choir, the Maccabees Male Chorus, advisor to the Young Adults and instructor for their Bible class.

He leaves to cherish his memory a beloved son, Harvay III; adored granddaughter, Elisabeth Sybel; a loving brother, Craig; proud parents, Harvey and Sybel; three aunts, two uncles, two nephews, many cousins, Godmother Catherine Mills and a host of friends.



### Eubanks, from Page 5

In July 1957 he was one of four Disciples of Christ among the 25 college professors selected nation-wide for participation in the Danforth Foundation Seminar on Religion and Morals in a Program of General Education. It was held at the University of Chicago. Dr. Eubanks believed "that education has a two-fold task: (1) To help people to make a living; and 2) To ... make a life... The first task of education requires competence. The second task requires consecration. I would be bold enough to say that if I had to indicate to a young person which of these is more important... I would say without hesitation that of making a life comes first..." His oldest sister, Amy Norris leads a host of friends and associates to cherish his memory.

### Phil Enz: 1937-1995- Effective Quiet Witness

**Philip I. Enz, Indianapolis, IN-** A native of Oklahoma City, OK who was born September 25, 1937 into a minister's family, died July 31, 1995 of natural causes. He traveled throughout Oklahoma and Kansas as his father, Harold Enz, served Disciples of Christ congregations. He graduated from Phillips University, Enid, OK with a B.S. degree in chemistry and an M.S. degree in Library Science from Indiana University. He worked at P.R. Mallory for seven years before employment as Medical Librarian at LaRue Carter Hospital where he served for the past 28 years. His first marriage to Carolyn Holt in 1962 enabled the birth of three children, Lynette, Stephen, and Anita., each currently involved in humanitarian service. Following Carolyn's demise in 1989 a second marriage to art entrepreneur Jenean Fulton in 1994 gave promise of continued enriched homelife. He was a faithful member of Downey Ave. C. C. Those cherishing his memory include wife, Jenean; his mother, Vera Gregg; brother, Ralph; sisters, Tricia Port and Anita Wertz; step-children Cindy Trowbridge, David Fulton & Shari Wilson.

## MINISTRY: One Senior Begins as Another Retires

### Mother Licensed to Minister

**I**ndianapolis, IN- Bobbye Valentine Brown of Indianapolis, IN, senior citizen and grandmother, was commissioned as a licensed minister September 3, 1995 during the morning worship of the Centenary Christian Church. Mrs. Brown had successfully completed all preparatory requirements required by the Indiana Regional Commission of Ministry.

As a college student at Tennessee A. and I. State College (i. e. now University), Nashville, TN she was a student leader in the Student Christian Association. She held key positions during the college's sponsorship of Religious Emphasis weeks.

Over the years Bobbye has experienced successful homebuilding and a key lay worker in both the Second Christian and Faith United Christian congregations.

### E. L. Griffin Retires After 57 Years of Service

**S**helby, MS- After 57 years of bi-vocational service to school and church, Edward L. Griffin of Shaw, MS has retired. Recognition of this historic action was given to him March 19, 1995 by the First Christian Church, Clarksdale, MS, April 23, 1995 by the First

Christian Church of Mound Bayou, MS and July 20-22, 1995 during the annual session of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention. Dr. Griffin had served the Clarksdale congregation 57 years and the Christian Churches in Mound Bayou and Shaw for 54 years.

During the course of these ministries he had been a teacher and school administrator in the public school systems of Clarksdale and Shaw.

He served several times as the president and treasurer for the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention. He is an active supporter of national church work among African American Disciples of Christ and served on several boards and committees.

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## Free-Falling Trends Toward a Vanishing African American Disciples of Christ Ministry

by William K. Fox, Sr. - Raymore, MO

**A**ccording to Dr. Ozark Range, Sr., recently retired from the General Church staff as Director of Black Ministries, "by the year 2005 or sooner, if present trends continue, young and vigorous ordained Black Disciples of Christ clergy will be a vanishing specie." Many, especially those of African heritage and black skin, are unwilling to even entertain ordination for such a commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church!

Range's parting thoughts appear as an article in the July/August 1995 issue of **SELAH**, the official newsletter of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

Most senior ministers like myself were committed to the Christian ministry through the outpouring of the Divine made manifest in personal experience and revealed vividly in the life, teachings and Cross of Jesus Christ. This commitment is grounded in a profound belief in a just God whose powers of grace and creativity is immersed in the flow of history.

Thus our commitment to the ministry goes beyond the narrow boundaries of denomination or even the institutional expression of one branch of Christian faith like Protestantism. The emergence of human error in judgement and action plagues both as they grope toward the fullness of being and doing best reflected in the Gospel of Jesus the Christ and the living Word and God of history.

**We favor allegiance and membership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) because it provides us with the religious heritage and stance whereby we can express this freedom in Christ.** Thus, most senior ministers, irrespective of race or ethnic origin, will join Dr. Lorenzo J. Evans' in his testimony entitled "I WOULD DO IT AGAIN!" which appears in this issue of **OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE**. They too **WOULD DO IT AGAIN!**

However, Dr. Range points toward free-falling trends toward the drying up of the supply of ordained African American clergy. His observations have caused me to think again about the role of schools like Jarvis Christian College. Further, I was immediately reminded of the Ministers' Fellowship meeting during the 13th. Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas City, MO where there was heated debate on this issue. A resolution was developed and sent to the Convocation Board of Trustees for response.

**Range bases his prophecy of tragedy on such free-falling trends as the non-existence of intentional wide-spread recruitment of prospects for ministry, the decreasing number of persons seeking graduate training for ministry, inadequate salary support for prepared ministers, the tendency to bring such persons who are prepared for congregational ministry into other aspects of church work or the people-helping professions, and the persistent existence of racism in the church which stifles the full use and appreciation of African American Disciples of Christ ministers.**

Last year Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, president of Jarvis Christian College, referred to such trends in a special letter sent to ministers related to the National Convocation of the Christian Church. She detailed an outline of the curriculum currently available at Jarvis for persons who had intentions of becoming ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She indicated special resources and benefits that would be available to Disciples of Christ students who enrolled in the college, but especially to those intending to prepare for the ministry. Jarvis has a high quality college level faculty in religion deeply interested in cultivating students interested in ministry. Seminaries must get qualified students from liberal arts colleges like Jarvis. On the other hand, all recruits for ministry do not necessarily have to come from majors in religion at the college level.





## I Would Do it Again

by Lorenzo J. Evans, Indianapolis, IN

**S**ixty-one years of my life has been devoted to the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Those sixty-one years were not always easy. They were filled with both joys and sorrows, Christian love and concern as well as heartaches and disappointments. However, there were always friends along the way to offer support.

I was blessed to have been born into a Christian family. There were three brothers and two sisters and I had a special relationship with my grandfather who had been born into slavery and could neither read nor write. As a young boy I would sit on his knee and he would say, "There's a better day coming." In spite of his limited education, one thing he did know and that was that he had a friend in Jesus Christ.

As I have traveled on life's journey the phrase, "There's a better day coming" has come to have real meaning for me. The church is not perfect because it is made of imperfect individuals like you and I. But if I had to do it over again I'd still dedicate myself to the ministry. With all of its shortcomings, the church is till the best institution for helping travelers along life's journey. Through the years, I have seen the church come a long way in terms of its relationships with its brothers and sisters of color.

I recall being on the faculty of the Laboratory Training School and going to Texas Christian University with my white co-worker, Ruth Reynolds Montgomery. I was not allowed to stay on campus with the other faculty members but was sent to live in the home of a black woman in the city. Neither was I allowed to have my meals in the main dining room with the other faculty members. I was served alone in a small room adjacent to the main dining area. When this happened my first impulse was to turn around and go home but my grandfather's words came to me and I felt that I had a responsibility to help bring about that "better day." Before the week was over there were twenty or thirty students sharing their meals

twenty or thirty students sharing their meals with me in this little room rather than in the main dining room.

After the week was over I wrote to the Chancellor of the University expressing my concern that an institution that purported to be a Christian institution should treat people in this way. I also raised the question about the failure of this institution to admit qualified blacks. Shortly after that I received a letter from the chancellor indicating that the Board of Regents had voted to open admissions to all qualified applicants regardless of race.

In 1974 that same University conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree upon me. Yes the church has come a long way but we still have a long way to go and as my grandfather would say, "There's a better day coming."

I am indebted to my dear late wife, Myrtle Heath Evans, for forty years of encouragement and support along my Christian journey. I am also indebted to the late George Oliver Taylor who was executive secretary of the Department of Christian Education in the Division of Homeland Ministries, who was bold enough to make field work assignments based upon ability rather than color. These assignments were not always pleasant but they strengthened my Christian faith and helped others to practice theirs. In my travels I have met hundreds of good Christians, both black and white, who have encouraged me along the way.

Through all of this I am always reminded of my grandfather who could neither read nor write, but could bring sunshine through the darkest cloud by this abiding faith. Therefore he could say with courage, "There's a better day ahead."

As a child that statement meant nothing but as I travel life's journey I appreciate the depth of that statement. Even now with all the good that has been

# I Would Do it Again

by Lorenzo J. Evans, Indianapolis, IN\*

*From Page 11*

done in the church there is still a better day ahead.

Sixty-one years in Christian ministry, and if I had another sixty-one years I'd do it again!

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE: In addition to being a retired general church staff executive, Dr. Evans is a retired military chaplain in the U.S.A. military and a former Young Men's Christian Association staff member.**

\*\*\*\*\*

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*Inside This Issue:*  
*Featuring series of "Homegoings" and a discussion on "Trends Toward a Vanishing African American Disciples of Christ Ministry"*



# The Oldtimers' Grapevine



Vol. V No. 6

November - December, 1995

Raymore, MO.

## “Glory to God...on earth peace, good will...”

**R**aymore, MO- Decades before the notorious trial of Orthenal James Simpson, accused of the brutal double murder of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and friend Ronald Goldman, unveiled to the world the reality of racism, the Reconciliation Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was challenging members to support programs dealing with the elimination of racism.

The irony of the O.J. Simpson aberration is that a combination of forces had freed him from his roots in the Black Ghetto. Eventually he was folded away in the cocoon of a golden life sports celebrity eons away from critical Black community concerns. Yet unforeseen events fashioned this “O. J.” into the basis of a debate on the cancer of racism.

Above the pulsating tremors surrounding the Simpson Trial verdict we approach the Yuletide Season to faintly hear the singing of the angels: “Glory to God in the highest... and on earth peace, goodwill...! Be not dismayed. A

*See GLORY TO GOD on Page 2*



*Tour Biker Joseph A. Culpepper and Co-pastor of Broadview C. C. Kansas City, MO, getting refreshed during the 1995 Regional Church Foxwood Springs Reconciliation Bike-A-Thon. Foxwood residents supplied refreshments, services, and liberal donations.*

## “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures...”

**I**n Psalm 107 the psalmist uses masterful poetic strokes to paint four vivid pictures of human peril and deliverance. There is the picture of the Wandering Traveler, the Languishing Prisoner, the Frivolous Fool, and the Bobbling Sailors.

Each group cries to the Lord

seeking salvation. The psalmist affirms that God has always heard the cries of the humble who seek his assistance. So give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

Therefore those of you who have received help and deliverance from difficulty through the unseen presence of God, let it be known. Give thanks unto God!

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# How can I help lift up moral principles where I live?

## GLORY TO GOD -from page 1

broad view of the world reveals God quietly at work on the problems of war, domestic violence, senseless murder and racism.

Increased positive thinking supporting the possibility of a person of color to be elected president of the United States underscores the validity of the Reconciliation Fund's emphasis on combating racism.

Mass media and the President rightfully deplored racially divisive statements made by the principal leader who called the historic Million Men March of black men to Washington, but correctly emphasized the profound importance of the March's goals to urge atonement and reconciliation.

The fact that questionable leaders had issued the "call," highlighted the vacuum in effective religious and political leadership. For at least a generation civil rights and religious leaders have failed to achieve a consensus on paths which would lead toward achieving common social objectives. Meantime the people have been yearning for a messenger who could motivate the development of a message.

But the singing of the angels can be heard faintly in more down to earth levels. For example, in September the editor of OLD-

TIMERS' GRAPEVINE partici-

pated in two Leadership Development Conferences in the Northwest District of the Christian Church in Mid-America where some 30 mature leaders, the majority being senior church members, took part in 90 minute work

*Fourteen (14) of these leaders penned personal notes to remind themselves to initiate some act or actions before Thanksgiving toward the elimination of racism.*

shops on THE "I" IN MY ISM. Fourteen (14) of these leaders penned personal notes to remind themselves to initiate some act or actions before Thanksgiving toward the elimination of racism.

October 7, 1995 the Reconciliation Committee of the Regional Church in Greater Kansas City sponsored a Bike-A-Thon on the campus of the retirement community of Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO. A volunteer host committee of more than 25 senior residents provided accommodations and courtesies for 35 riders from congregations in the area.

Foxwood's seniors registered

See GLORY TO GOD on Page 3



## On Putting Something in God's Christmas Stocking-



**R**ecall the story of the manger scene. Gaze through a crevice in the manger wall at little David beholding the richly dressed kings doing homage before the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. The shepherds, Eli, Jacob and Tobin kneel with heads bent and hands clasped in an attitude of prayer. Before them on the hard floor lay their gifts.

There was Eli's shepherd's crook which had belonged to his father. Eli gave the shepherd's crook

which was an article cherished greatly by the entire household.

God hangs up a stocking at Christmas. What do you have to put in it? So often the stockings of others are filled but God's remains empty.

God wants something that you cherish most to become a means for advancing God's highest purposes. Eli's gift of the crook was something Christ could use. What is the best you have to put in God's stocking?

**“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;...” 2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

**GLORY TO GOD** *-from page 2*

participants in the Administration Building foyer, punched mileage cards, monitored youngsters in the indoor swimming pool, and joined those attending the rider recognition period following lunch.

Veteran biker Hector Garcia, pastor of the Alta Vista Christian Church of Kansas City, MO, was participating in his 4th Foxwood Reconciliation bike-a-thon. Later he joined others for the 7th Regional Church Reconciliation bike-a-thon of 500 miles to the General Assembly in Pittsburg, PA.

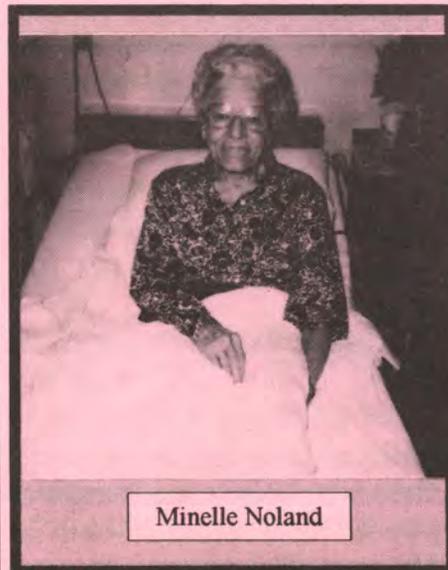
A grandmother in her seventies

walked briskly for three miles as her three year old grandson rode his bicycle ahead for Reconciliation. A middle-aged pastor and tour biker, Joe Culpepper, made a 62 mile round-trip ride from his home in Olathe, KS to demonstrate his commitment to the Reconciliation objective.

One senior citizen arrived late in the day with a \$100 donation. Another \$100 from a supporter arrived as this article is written. Foxwood residents contributed approximately half of the \$2,500 realized October 7.

The church continues to provide concerned persons opportunities to participate in the elimination of racism. There are opportunities for you within your home,

job environment and community. What examples from your experiences could you add to the above? How will you become a means for causing the angels of God to sing "Glory to God in the highest...on earth peace...? WKF



Minelle Noland

**Guardian Angel** *by James Blair, retired Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian Minister and former Area Staff*

**K**ansas City, MO- Minelle Noland shared a special kind of magic love that day in May 1964 when my family visited the offices of the Christian Church Commission in Greater Kansas City, located in the Old First Christian Church building at Eleventh and Locust across from City Hall.

On my family's subsequent trips to "the Office" Minelle developed a close relationship with my wife, Vida, and children James, Darren and Monica. She and I knew that

Monica was manipulating everyone in the family but Minelle seemed particularly loving to Monica.

As the administrative office secretary, Minelle typed up the Proposed Budgets. She was especially delighted to alert me to cost of living increases being proposed by Executive Minister Bob Ray which would benefit Monica and the rest of our family.

Minelle was a competent journalist who served the church with a

deep sense of calling. She was capable of counseling and improving on the work of those of us who were less competent or as well organized as she was gifted to be. It seemed like we were engaged for an eternity in restructuring the Commission into the Area Church; and into the Regional Church of the restructured International Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Minelle could always go to the exact spot to get the information any one desired. She always knew what she had typed up on

*See ANGEL on Page 4*

## God works divine wonders through countless numbers of faithful and humble servants! Minelle Noland represented one of those servants.

### ANGEL Continued from Page 3

the process of the National, regional and Area "Manifestations of the One Church." She knew exactly where the files were which needed to be considered before planning the next steps toward becoming the whole church sharing the whole Gospel with the whole world.

She provided the key office back-up work for staff executives John Wolfersberger, Harold Rea and myself. She undergirded the district church leadership of Richard (Dick) Hamm, who was the Pastor-Developer of the newly established congregation of North Oak, who became the first chairperson for the Area's Division of Missions. (Dick Hamm is the current elected General Minister and President of the Church.)

Within the Division of Mission an "NBA Presence in Kansas City Committee" was established which was first chaired by her pastor, Ed Weinrich. Later Lawrence Bash, at the time pastor of Country Club Christian Church, succeeded Weinrich as chairman. When Merle Mott gave her farm to the Area Church for the establishment of a National Benevolent Association retirement living center now known as Foxwood Springs, Ed Weinrich and I would often wonder if the Center would ever be constructed and if Minelle would have an opportunity to live

in such a supportive community.

Pastor Weinrich and I shared a special concern for Minelle, because though she had served as staff for the Area Church for 18 years, she was not a member of the Pension Fund or shared in other fringe benefits, which were

*To hear that Minelle has retired from this life is to believe that she is now a guardian angel of the Church she loved and served with competence and special love*

standard for other staff but not in vogue when she accepted the calling to be secretary.

The building of the Foxwood Springs Living Center was one of the Miracle of Ministries in those days. It was good for me to learn

that during her declining years Minelle could take a walk on those beautiful grounds of Foxwood and then go home quietly to her resting place.

To hear that Minelle has retired from this life is to believe that she is now a guardian angel of the Church she loved and served with competence and special love, supporting our daughter, Monica, and church leaders for three generations. Guardian Angels share that special kind of love.

*NOTE: Minelle Noland died September 11, 1995 at the Foxwood Springs Living Center. She was a member of the Belton Christian Church. Memorial services were conducted by Foxwood Chaplain Ralph Keller in the Bromwell Lounge. She was a faithful Foxwood volunteer.*

## They Also Confirm the Dickson Prophecy: "...I'll last a little while longer." EJD

**O**thers not previously listed as being present at the August 14, 1995 E. J. Dickson "Homegoing" in Indianapolis, IN who assure that the spirit of this Christian leader "will last a little while longer"-

**From Ohio:** Elder and Mrs. Raymond Smith, Elizabeth Edundson, First United (Disciples of Christ), Xenia; Stella Hines, Margaret Lewis, Mattie McCloria, Summit

Christian, Dayton; Della January, President-Elect of the National Convocation, Springfield.

**From Alabama:** Louise Sander-son, moderator of Jefferies Memorial Christian and chair of the local arrangements committee for the 1996 National Convocation.

*(NOTE: This information was contributed by Della January of Springfield, OH.)*

## Charles and Martha Barr: *examples of servanthood!*

**C**ameron, MO- Jig saw puzzle devotees make note of this. The picture on the right of Charles and Martha Barr standing beside the Newsklwanstein Castle in Bavaria, is a view of two steadfast Christian servants who refuse to stop witnessing, even in their 13th. year of retirement.

In September of 1986 their two sons and three daughters children gave them this 12,144 piece jig saw puzzle in celebration of their 43 years in the Christian ministry. The children said it would surely take their parents the rest of their lives to conquer it. But patient and steadfast as their parents are, Charles and Martha set aside two years and finished the puzzle in 780 hours!

After serving as pastor of congregations in Illinois, Kansas, South Dakota and Missouri for 18 years, the Barr's moved to Mexico, MO in 1966 where they served Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations for 20 years and three months as the Mid-West Regional Church's District Minister in the Boot Heel area of Missouri. Following the restructure of the Regional Church, Charles' area of responsibility included St. Louis and Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois.

THE GRAPEVINE got this picture and story in September when the editor was invited to share Leadership Development Confer



*After two years and 780 hours of work, Charles and Martha Barr stand beside their 12,144 jig saw puzzle.*

ences in Albany and Higginsville sponsored by the Northwest District of Christian Churches in the Mid-America Region.

The Barr's retired to live in Cameron where the Office of the Northwest District of the Church happens is located. They continue to work on jig saw puzzles.

The planning and execution of those Conferences was carried out by the retired Charles Barr who continues to serve Jesus Christ and the Church as the "Assistant" to Morris Page, the Northwest District Minister.

### IN THANKFULNESS

As you well know, Lord, I forget sometimes the things I owe. Sometimes gray niggling worries pile up and up, and seem so hugely tall that I cannot see over them all.

And yet, though I complain instead of praising, you don't withdraw your constant blessings, Lord. You let me fret a little while- and then you make me tall with gratitude again.

And for this, Lord, I thank you most of all, for living moments when I stand erect and see, beyond the drab molehills of care, Mountains of blessings that are always there. *-Jane Merchant-*

# For Whom the Bells Toll:



**S**t. Louis, MO- Valeska Lorraine Hart Williams, the first woman and African American to serve as a draftsman during World War II in Puget Sound,



Washington where she produced battleship blueprints, died August 22, 1995. September 15, 1915 she was the tenth of twelve children born to Lucy Neal and Benjamin Franklin Hart in Hankinson, MS. Valeska received elementary and secondary education in the public schools of St. Louis. After she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stowe Teachers College she became a dedicated teacher. She was employed as a cooperating teacher, lead teacher, laboratory classroom instructor and retired as reading specialist in the St. Louis Public School System after more than 40 years.

She was a creative and dependable member of Centennial Christian Church for 71 years. Pastor and Memorial Service Officiant Reverend Dr. Samuel W. Hylton,

Jr. guided the order of memorial celebration in the church Sunday, August 27, 1995.

She was a self-starter, fully capable of conceptualizing and carrying out creative projects with children, youth and/or adults. She initiated the first girl scouting groups in Centennial and led Christian education efforts in the congregation for more than a quarter century.

Valeska was an adult leader for Chi Rho, CYF and counselor in summer camps and conferences.

She was an elder emeritus and leader in Christian Women's Fellowship activities.

The Hart family has been a foundational family in Centennial.

She is survived by a daughter, Carol Burt Beck, now residing in Brooklyn, NY; two brothers, Ben Hiram Hart, Sr. and Millard Hart of St. Louis, MO; and a host of nieces, nephews, five grandchildren, nine great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; three sisters-in-law and numerous other relatives and friends.

## Verbie Aldeene Rambo Rand: 1913-1995

**M**arshall, TX- Verbie Aldeene Rambo Rand born to Derious and Jeanie Hooten Rambo in Bivins, TX, died October 12, 1995 in a local infirmary following a long period of illness.

Memorial services were held in the First Christian Church of Marshall, TX where Pastor Ray Owens officiated. Professors Lorene Holmes of Jarvis College, and Frank Perry of Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC. and Rev. Curtis M. Cooper of Houston, TX brought words of condolence.

Following completion of public schools in Bivins and Marshall, TX she received a liberal arts degree from Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins. Marriage to Earl Wadsworth Rand of Lodi, TX in

1934 was rewarded by the birth of children Earlyne and Randye Mote.



In addition to 24 years of public-school teaching, she ably assisted her husband when he became president at both Wiley and Jarvis colleges. Among the host that mourn her loss is a loving husband, son, daughter, son and daughter-in-law, two brothers, eight grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

# Thanks! Have Blessed Holidays!

## **D**ONORS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE:

Leslie/Elizabeth Kingsbury, Walter/Sue Cardwell, Harold/Ruth Johnson, Norwood /Wilma Tye, Gertrude Dimke, Ruth E. Deer, Indianapolis, IN; Amy Holman, Louisville, KY; Earl/Rosemary Harris, Kansas City, KS; Mildred E. Webb, Harvey, IL; Lucille Coward, St. Laurent, P.Q.; Lola B. Greer, Era Y. Holmes, J. Marie Williams, Robert/Bettye Adams, Oklahoma City, OK; Ola M. Brown, Los Angeles, CA; Mary Joyce Bechtel, Sun Lakes, AZ; Dwight L. French, Sunset Beach, NC; Venita C. Waddleton, Quitman, TX; Glenn H./Kathleen Starn Helme, Baltimore, MD; Belva B. Jordan, Lancaster, PA. Alvin O. Jackson (M.B.C.C.), Memphis, TN.

## THE EDITOR'S WORD

Careful thought is given to making every issue of the OLD-TIMERS' GRAPEVINE an effective expression of its original intention.

The primary reader audience is any member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who is 60 years of age or older.

We seek to nurture a network for many of those who have some knowledge and/or relationship to the former National Christian Missionary Convention and the

current National Convocation of the Christian Church.

However, these objectives seem to have an interest among some in the church who are younger than 60 years of age. Several of them are among our readers.

*NOTE THE NUMBERS behind your name in the address. They indicate the last time you made a donation in support of the OLD TIMERS' GRAPEVINE.*

*Thanks so much!*

We endeavor to augment information that may be available through other media in the Church. However, within the limitations of resources, we want to assure that the contributions and concerns of the oldtimers who live as well as die are lifted up. We also maintain an interest in the life and work of the contemporary Church.

**W.K.F., SR., Editor/Manager**

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# The Oldtimers' Roundtable- Pull up a chair.



## A GOOD WORD FROM OLD

**FRIENDS: Indianapolis, IN-** I always appreciate receiving the news concerning friends and colleagues. The publication is growing and taking an important place in our reading...

*Gertrude (Dimke)- Retired General Church GMP Staff*

*Springfield, OH-* Enjoyed this issue (Sept/Oct.). You are doing a terrific job...

*Della M. January- President-Elect of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.*

*Sun Lakes, AR-* Thanks for the Oldtimers' magazine. I am inter-

ested since I was secretary for Rev. Emmett Dickson at Missions Building, Irvington in late 60's until 1972... I appreciate reading and learning of those who worked at Missions Building. I retired in 1975...

*Mary Joyce Bechtel*

*Sunset Beach, NC-* I appreciate hearing about the "saints." Dickson was very special. I am blessed because our paths crossed over the years...

*Dwight Lyman French, retired regional minister for Christian Church in Pennsylvania*

*Quitman, TX-* I congratulate you upon the publication, THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE. It keeps

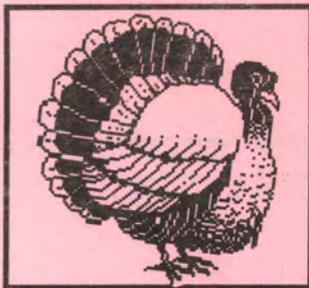
our heritage alive. *Venita C. Waddeleton, retired college administrator, faculty and researcher, Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX*

## WORDS OF SENIOR WISDOM- Assembled by Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS:

"Train up a child in the way he/she should go, then go that way yourself."

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

"Even though you are on the right track you'll get run over if you just sit there."



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