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### The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 9 (January - December 1999)

William K. Fox Sr

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# THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Volume IX Issue 1

January - February 1999

Raymore, Missouri

### Special points of interest:

- Missions Building Conversion Plan Finally Underway
- Holiday Newsletters Reflect Rich Senior Involvement
- Myers Century Birthday Among 1998 Stellar Events
- Saints and Servants Answer Call to Receive "Rewards"

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## Missions Building Conversion Begins

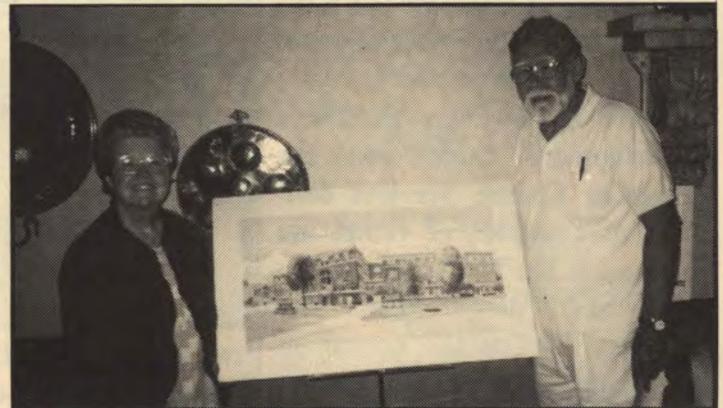
by Sally Falk Nancrede

*The following is a reprint of an article in the INDIANAPOLIS STAR by staff writer Sally Falk Nancrede. She was given an early staff assignment to monitor the development of the Missions Building conversion proposal. The article outlines the main aspects of this development up to the actual breaking of ground, December 9, 1998.*

"Ground will be broken today (December 9, 1998) renovation of the rambling Missions Building, four years af-

## Signal Events in 1998 Involve Senior Citizens

\*Cornelius W. and Alpha P. Arnold, veteran retired minister and public school teacher, of Los Angeles, CA initiated a Scholarship Fund re-



Retired General Church Staff Director of Literature Distribution Marilyn Hotz and Overseas Division President Bill Nottingham, both residents of Irvington, proudly hold up a picture of former International Church Headquarters to be converted.

ter the 121,000-square-foot in Irvington was vacated as the international headquarters of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Since the headquarters

moved Downtown in 1995, the future of the Eastside landmark has been in jeopardy.

The five connected buildings at 222 S. Downey Ave. will be

(Continued on page 2)

lated to the scholarship fund effort of the central office of the National Benevolent Association in St. Louis, MO in February 1998.

\*National Convocation Liberation Award recipients during the 15th. biennial session of the NCCC in Lexington, KY August

(Continued on page 2)

## Oldest Portion to Become an historical Art Museum

*(Continued from page 1)*

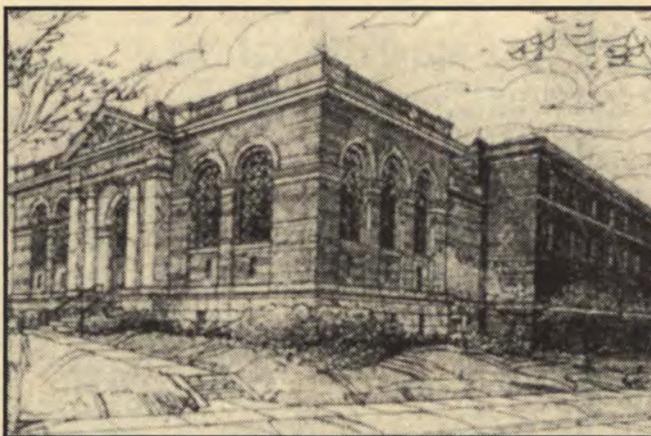
converted into 79 affordable apartments for senior citizens, called Missions Apartments. The historic Bona Thompson Library, which served Butler students before the university moved to the Northside, will become the Bona Thompson Center art museum.

Indiana Black Expo Economic Development Corp, and the Christian Church Services division of Disciples of Christ are partners in the \$6.5 million housing project. Mansur Real Estate Services, Inc. is the consultant and construction manager.

The Irvington Historical Society is in charge of renovation of the Bona Thompson Center, the oldest section of the building. The gallery will display the Irvington Historical Society's art collection.

The Indianapolis Foundation already has granted \$150,000 toward the project.

The Indianapolis Foundation already has granted \$150,000 toward the project.



**The former Bona Thompson Library, oldest section of Missions Building, will become the Art museum**

The Indiana Housing Finance Authority has awarded \$4.2 million in federal tax credits to the Missions Apartments, as well as \$200,000 in federal funds through the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development.

Brian K. McDonnell, project manager for Mansurm said the apartments will be a mix of stu-

dio one-and two-bedroom units. 'We will keep and restore all the historic windows; we will clean and tuckpoint and masonry and

modernize and beautify the grounds though lighting and landscaping,' he said.

Old office spaces will be gutted, and high ceilings, corridors, stairways, and architectural detailing will be retained throughout the building, considered one of the finest Neoclassical examples in the city.

Officials for the Christian Church headquarters are happy to have the building saved for a community use, McDonnell said. The building's existing community room will be refurbished and open for public events. Some minor demolition already is underway. Occupancy of the apartments is expected next October.

## 1998 Events Highlight Abiding Senior Citizen Concerns

*(Continued from page 1)*

6-11, 1998 were veteran senior citizens K. David Cole, Sybel Thomas, and William (Bill) Hannah (since deceased)

\*Sere Stacy Myers, of Kansas City, MO, retired minister, real

estate broker, and national denominational church leader, was honored by the Myers Family and friends on his 100th. birthday September 25, 1998.

\*Conversion of the former International Headquarters Mis-

sions Building for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Indianapolis, IN into senior citizen apartments and historical arts museum began December 9, 1998

## Round-up of Tidbits from Holiday Newsletters

**R**aymore, MO- "O Come All Ye Faithful"... And they did! To our Minnesota cottage. All 16 of our children and grandchildren. From Vietnam and Vermont, and Michigan and Arkansas and Indiana. What a celebration!!..."

"We Wonder as We Wander: Slight variation on an Appalachian Carol." We look back on this year in which we have all wandered and we do wonder...

While bemoaning a tarnished White House, can we also remember that there are a few other moral issues that deserve attention- our concern for the homeless and for youth held in prisons, to mention only a couple?

How can we live so that our religious convictions give us greater understanding of each other instead of setting us apart?"

"A Child This Day is Born": ...that's the good news... The power of love and forgiveness and justice and beauty is still at work..." *Cynthia and Ian McCrae (retired social action and mission education staff for the denomination)*

**Indianapolis, IN-** "1997-98 provided opportunities for travel and renewal with relatives and long-time friends... Travel began July 25-29, 1997 attending the ... General Assembly in Denver... three days with cousins in their

charming mountain home near Evergreen, CO...drove to Portland and beyond with Winona and Bud Bodine... you majestic mountains, rugged ocean beaches, gourmet restaurants... Took a magnificent tour and cruise, April 23-May 4, 1998, visiting Greece... my friend, Lambrinii Stergiopol in her Athens' home, Turkey, and major Aegean Sea Island...

Attended my 11th. ICWF Quadrennial Assembly June 24-28, 1998 in Lafayette, IN... Dressed in my Olympic costume and carrying my torch, I led the celebration parade in Purdue Elliott Hall heralding the 50th anniversary of Christian Women's Fellowship... *Marilyn Hotz (retired Disciples director of the distribution, sales and interpretation of Christian literature)*

**Kansas City, MO-** "Your love and sharing with me on the 100th year and date of my birth was a blessing of grace and a remembrance of the life we share...All of the generous gifts have been passed on to the Jarvis Christian College. Your gift will enhance Jarvis' important mission to educate young people for coming generations. Your gift will outlive my life and many more through the lives of the students who will benefit..." *Sere Stacy Myers (retired Disciples minister and national church leader)*

**Cameron, MO-** "The church is still at the center of our lives. We are called into it by Christ, and that call has not been rescinded... Martha serves in choir, diaconate, CWF etc. Charles serves as elder, board member, etc. Most time consuming has been writing a computer program to keep track of attendance (i. e. prospective members, church school)... In spite of aches and lapses, we are basically healthy... We still garden, but only the butternut squashes did well. They overran everything else, but yielded 66, weighing 350 lb! Our hardy kiwis for the first time produced more than a handful... Our pecan trees produced their first 2 tiny nuts... Three grandchildren graduated. (One with honors from the University of Iowa, now in law school; two from high school, with one going on to the University of Missouri and the other on to marry a U. S. Navy man.) In spite of investments that didn't pay...it has been a good year, as is every year lived in the Lord... *Charles B. and Martha B. Barr (retirees from a Missouri Boot Heel Ministry)*

**Indianapolis, IN-** "1998 is a year I don't want to talk about except to say I'm sure glad ...that I am at Robin Run! People are friendly, concerned and helpful... last spring my old neighbor (across the hall) Lucille Taylor moved to her daughter's and fi-

(Continued on Page 4)

## More Newsletter Tid-bits

(Continued from page 3)

nally passed away May 3rd. My youngest sister, Marian, had died Mary 20, so life has changed for me. However, Elizabeth Speed, who lives next to Frances West in this hall, has become an enjoyable dinner companion... Frances of course continues to eat in the dining room. We have occasional contacts when she drives the car in which I still go to Downey Avenue 17 miles across town. Walking has become a problem for me, but I get good exercise walking to and from the dining room and mailbox... So life goes on. Nitrostat and a nitroglycerin patch handle any pain I have, and my pains continue to be small... I am so thankful we can trust God whatever comes... *Mabel Metzere-retired Overseas and Homeland ministries staff*

**Dallas, TX-** "Because of your hard work, donations, and love gifts, we were able to contribute the following: (during the NCCC 15th. Biennial Session, Lexington, KY):

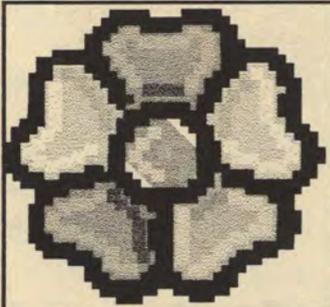
Star Supporter Fund -----	
-----	\$5,490.00
Black Disciples Endowment Fund -----	1,090.00
NBA Children's Services -----	530.00

Bible for Jarvis CC Chapel —  
— ————— 1,230.00

Total ————— \$8,340.00

Plus 3 carloads of diaper bags (50 - 75) for the NBA "Olive Branch" including personal items, diapers, toys etc.

...may the spirit of giving continue to bring peace to the earth.... *Patricia B. Maples, out-going President of Ministers and Spouses Fellowship of the National Convocation*



A Variety of Experiences Shared

**Chicago, IL-** "I am still reeling from the impact of watching impeachment proceedings on TV... together with American missile launches against Iraq. Getting out these letters is good therapy for me. We really seek a society where the greatest scandal will be to ignore genuine needs of the poor. *How long, O Lord?...*" *Charles Harvey Lord, DJAN-retired Disciples pastor and professor of Christian social ethics*

**Raymore, MO-** "A newcomer to our family is a totally black young Angora cat who drifted into our kitchen one evening at suppertime. Barry had brought over his friend of many years, a seventeen year old striped cat, Maurice, to bury him under our Pussy Willows. We were still at

the table with the Kitchen door and garage open, discussing his years with the deceased, when this young glossy black cat sort of floated into the room. She took a long look around, announced in plain catese, 'Well, I'm home, folks!'

Then she stopped for a scratch from each of us, checked out the hall, looked into the rooms off it, tried a chair or two back in the den, came back, picked up another set of scratchings, and hopped up on the couch, settling down for a short bath and snooze.

She seemed to fear nothing, moved easily toward us, as tho she knew us. She was healthy, declawed, calm and beautiful. She was also housebroken and had a very quiet meow.

Floating in when she did right after our burying Barry's old buddy Maurice, we figured she must be a messenger from him, from the other cat side. So if she proved to have no home, we'd call her Wraith. We called around and advertised. She didn't, and we did! She loves the outdoors, but having no claws, she can't scale our fence. So she can't roam again- We hope.

She's a pleasure and a great time-waster..." *Wayne and Geneve Selsor (retired minister, artist and craftsman with a dedicated librarian)*

# Myers Century Birthday Celebration a 1998 Highlight



Immediate Myers Family sponsors with principal planners. Left to Right: Stacey Myers Williams, Sere Spaulding Myers, Sr., William K. Fox, Sr., (Saturday Program M.C.), Michael Myers,

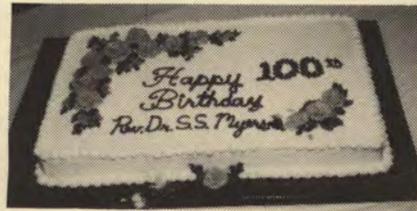
Jean M. Bates and Mary Ann Myers, Steering Committee Secretary, inset. The family gave all monetary gifts to a Myers Scholarship Fund at Jarvis Christian College.



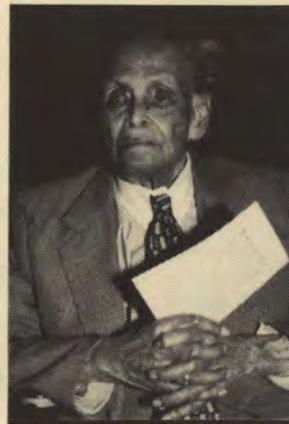
Thirty-six (36) family members plus another seventy-five (75) related kin came to Kansas City from Hilton Head, SC to London, England and OH, OK, TX, In, IL, CA, MASS, NY, CO, and St. Louis, MO in between.



Among National and local denominational leaders who made special Presentations were: James Blair, John Foulkes, Delilah Hall, Charles Webb, Jr., Enoch Henry, Jr., Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., Norma Ellington-Twitty.



DR. SERE STACY MYERS, HONOREE



George Coates, also of Swope Parkway United, represented one of the Dr. Myers most devoted personal friends and former parishioners. He assembled a number of accolades addressed to Dr. Myers from civic, religious, governmental and community organization.



Burnell Canady of Central Christian Church, Kansas City, MO representing many served by Dr. Myers, brought a message of thanksgiving through Gospel song.



Barbara G. Allen of Swope Parkway United Christian Church lifted everyone with songs of praise. She represented the ties to the West Paseo Boulevard Christian Church where Dr. Myers served for 42 years before that congregation united with the former Swope Parkway Christian Church.



Senior Pastor Robert Hill and Community Christian Church on the Plaza and core of volunteers guided the congregation in hosting the three day Event.



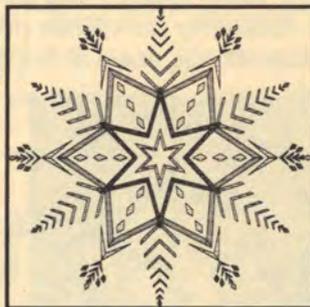
Approximately 100 friends from Metro Kansas City attended and participated.

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

**William Wallace (Mac) McDermet, Sr, Raymore, Mo,** December 4, 1998 to join his wife, Grace Eleta Lowe, and son, James Turner, who both preceded him in death. His son, William McDermet III, a Disciples of Christ minister, conducted his memorial services just as he did for his mother, Grace Eleta and brother, James. Bill presented an informal outline of the life of his father whose college major was engineering. However, the socio-economic needs of the times caused him to become a successful social welfare administrator. He evolved into an advocate for the needs of the poor he served. Mac McDermet was an active church laymen who joined his equally dedicated wife in establishing the Outreach Endowment Fund at Raymore Christian Church. During the early years of the Civil Rights struggle and the urgency to stimulate community organization among the poor, Mac McDermet voiced his support for special efforts in community organization if it would have potential for improving the plight of the poor.

**Francis Lucile Parsons, of Raymore, Mo,** devoted helpmate to husband, Harry Parsons '68 plus years of Christian ministry. Francis entered into rest December 17, 1998 with a celebration of

her life held in Bromwell Lounge of Foxwood Springs December 21, 1998. She was cited by Foxwood Springs Chaplain Lloyd Lambert, son-in-law, Charles, of Abilene, TX, and Pastor Rick Rintamaa of Raymore Christian



*Each a divinely precious spirit.*

Church as having unity of soul and spirit with her husband; possessed of the Biblical characteristics of the "Good Woman;" lover of music and singing the hymns of Zion; "never losing heart" in spite of the circumstances she experienced; and ending every conversation with you with the words: "You are special."

**Lynell Marian Horne Hemphill, Chicago, IL** October 9, 1998 and memorialized in her "home congregation" October 18, 1998 with ministers T. Eugene Fisher and Samuel W. Hylton guiding the celebration. A close friend from childhood, Norma Ellington-Twitty, remembers her "fearlessness" and being "progressive in her thinking." Norma says that if you "had a conversation with Lynell, you were going to hear a unique perspective, a challenging of conventional wisdom, a push to be and do more than just the 'ordinary' or what other people expected of you." Lynell Hemphill attended the Floretta Howard School of Expression and completed elementary and secondary education in the St. Louis

Public School system. She received a B. A. from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO and an M. A. degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Her husband, Julius Arthur Hemphill, preceded her in death. The union brought two sons and two granddaughters. She was honored in death by the establishment of a Scholarship Foundation by the Chicago Housing Authority where she had been the Director of Education and Culture.

**Albert C. Hofrichter, Iowa City, IA,** October 10, 1998 was a minister who gave many years of service in organizing laymen's work within the denomination's Division of Homeland Ministries. and directing Men's Retreats. He enabled laymen to support mission projects like the Star Supporter Fund spearheaded by the Christian Men's Fellowship affiliated with the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

**Elizabeth Mitchell Hamilton, Indianapolis, IN** November 9, 1998, memorialized at Faith United Christian Church by Interim Pastor Raymond Brown and others. She was a "child of old Second Christian Church" where a grand uncle Henry L. Herd was pastor and her father treasurer. The Butler University major in math taught school and retired to establish her own business and finally to aid her husband in the operation of a real estate establishment.

# Thanks for the Start in 1999!

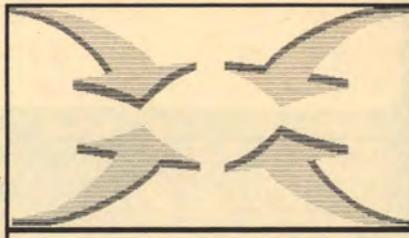
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We operate solely on your goodwill and donations. We can make 1999 our very best.

*Editor/Manager W. K. Fox, Sr.*

## The Oldtimers' Grapevine

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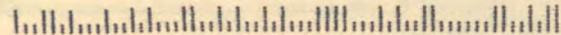
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## Christ Centered Senior Citizens Move Toward 2000 A. D.

**A**mong the 1998 Holiday Season greetings recently received one contained a message addressed to "...all my friends... born before 1945... Consider the changes we have witnessed! We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL! We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms,... and before a man walked on the moon..." We have seen a lot!

Time and change will continue to the year 2000 and beyond! But a wise writer once observed:

"... for those who love...Time is not." Time is not a steel noose around the neck strangling those reaching for new life and hope. For those who love life and are grateful for each new day and new hour. For those who keep faith and hope, and do as much as possible during each new day and each new hour. For those who act with thanksgiving for the measure of strength God in Christ living provides, "Time is not."

Such a spiritually grounded person regards the flow of time as the environment within which the trusting spirit can breathe and re-

ceive the blessings of life, no matter if they be small or great.

Time seen in this manner fosters faith and overcomes fear. In the midst of change and circumstance oft beyond human control, one finds small seeds of hope and immeasurable joy.

Let us rejoice in our birthdays! Let us praise God in any measure of success or overcoming of difficulty by our children and our children's children. Let us immerse ourselves in flow of time as we move toward the year 2000 and beyond. Praise God!

*-O. G. Reynard-*



# THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Volume IX Issue 2

March – April 1999

Raymore, Missouri

## Special points of interest:

- \*Achieving spiritual reformation as we contemplate the Cross during Lent
- \*Reflection on the lives of those who have "Crossed Over Recently"
- \*Remembering colleagues who are recovering from illness

## Inside this issue:

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## "The Cross and Unmerited Suffering"

Twenty years ago my wife and I, accompanied by two personal friends, were privileged to spend some high quality time with the Tanzanian artist, Elimu Njau in his Paa Ya Paa Art Gallery community near Nairobi, Kenya. Paa Ya Paa was known as a gathering place for original ideas from artists, writers, poets and actors from all over the world. A unique assemblage of African artists was in the midst of plans for the Annual Sharpeville Memorial Program on March 21, 1980. The theme for that Memorial was "Meditations under the Cross."

These artists were committed Christians and felt that the experiences of the Cross of Calvary had been vividly dramatized in the massacre that occurred in Sharpeville. The sight of fleeing school children and their teachers being battered to ground by the police clubs and guns of a militarized state was still fresh in the memory of many. The artists decided to focus on South Africa, and the unmerited suffering which in no way had left the face of Africa. Thus the Sharpeville Memorial Program material contained art and graphics which conveyed deep spiritual understanding of that unfortunate Event.



Today, a generation later, while we make spiritual preparation for HOLY WEEK, we are still justified to include meditation on The Cross and unmerited suffering still experienced by many throughout our nation and the world. We strive to reshape our frail humanity toward a greater likeness of the Divine as revealed in the Christ. Yet the human frailty of the early Disciples of Christ which contributed to the unmerited suffering of The Cross, still plagues many members of the Body of Christ today.

Reflection on the disciple, Judas provides us with some understanding of the underlying pitfalls which challenge true discipleship. Judas had great expectations for his people and nation. He was the patriotic one who was drawn to the teachings and life style of Jesus. Judas had a dream. That dream envisioned Jesus as

(Continued on page 2)

## The Cross and Unmerited Suffering

*(Continued from page 1)*

the central figure in the fulfillment of the Messianic Hope proclaimed by the Jewish prophets of old. He was driven by the vision of a Messiah who would lead God's chosen people to full supremacy over the known world. Thus, Judas was propelled forward by an outmoded vision born in the deep past. It was a dream firmly entwined with the existence of physical and material power. Such a vision seldom has much room left for the operation of love and sharing.

However, Leslie Weatherhead has pointed out that "If one man in a group is painted very black, the grayness of the rest is white by comparison." Judas was a good Disciple of Christ driven by a compelling inner vision of the Messianic Hope. But that inner vision led him to give way to a Satanic drive. That Satanic drive legitimize his use of any means available to challenge Jesus to

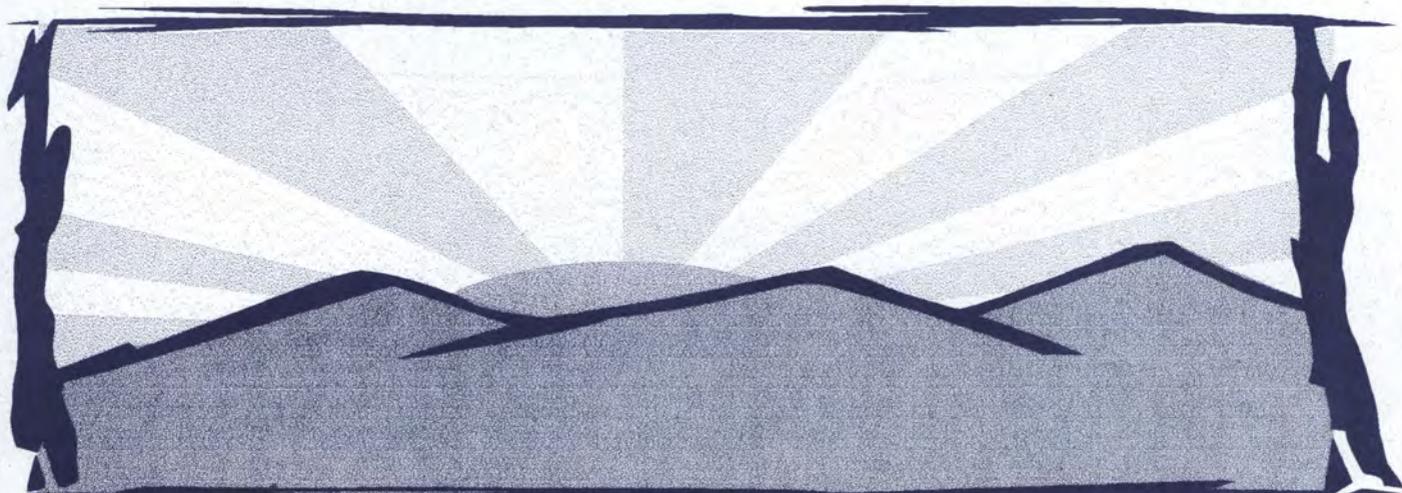
act as the conquering Messiah; the kind of Messiah Judas mistakenly thought Jesus was.

The finger of blame which points to unmerited suffering on The Cross, goes beyond Judas. It points to every Disciple of Christ then and to those claiming discipleship today. The old African American spiritual still poses the appropriate question: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" The very thought that you and I were there is bound to "cause us to tremble." Whenever a situation at home, on the job, or in our local or world community calls for a personal testimony of the love and mercy of God in Christ, and we are too timid to find some way to make a testimony, "we are there!"



### **THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER:**

Whenever there is a misappropriation of enthusiastic patriotism; or an intolerant selfishness, which insists on only that which is "ours" ethnically or otherwise; or the quick resort to the use of physical force before adequate consideration of reconciliation and peace; we again thrust a sword into the side of Jesus and contribute to unmerited suffering on a Cross. Pray for God to help us remain down on our knees in prayer long enough to rise restored and empowered by Divine forgiveness and grace. Let us return to a cleansed inner self and in the fellowship of others, try again and again to be more faithful Disciples. AMEN. - *WKF, SR - Editor/Manager* -



## Paul Crow Retires: After 40 Years of Work in the "Miracle Ministry"

**Indianapolis, IN** - The ministry of many clergy is filled with "miracles." However, after more than two generations, Paul A. Crow, Jr, a native of Lanett, AL and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) clergyman, has retired from being a designated catalyst for Christian unity across denominational and faith lines- an ultimate challenge for achieving a "Miracle Ministry."

Most Christians believe in Jesus' prayer for the unity of his disciples as recorded in John 17, but few are willing to work seriously at making that a reality among the variety of churches and interpretations of the Gospel. Paul Crow has worked on this goal for the past 45 years. January 1999 he retired from the presidency of the denomination's Council on Christian Unity, Inc., a position he had held since succeeding the late George Beasley, 25 years ago.

He has always seen his work as



ministry. When Staff Writer Judith Cebula of the Indianapolis Star asked Dr. Crow to state his "greatest joy," he replied: "My greatest joy is being part of a loving family and being called to the ministry."

Crow believes his Christian ministry has been under the guidance of an ever present God. During the recent Cebula interview he said, "My greatest hope for Christianity is that it will make the church a sign to the human community of God's will for reconciliation in the whole world.

I encountered the presence of God in India in 1970 when the Church of North India came into being. Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Disciples of Christ came together as one on that historic day."

Paul is a careful student of church history who speaks with inspiring and prophetic vitality. "My greatest fear for Christianity," he says, "is that people will lose heart when unity doesn't come as quickly as they wish."

As a young minister he accepted the call to be the administrative executive for the interdenominational Consultation on Church Union headquartered in Princeton, NJ during its early and most critical formative years. This experience brought him international interfaith recognition.

In 1997 ecumenical leaders celebrated Crow's persevering lead-

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Some Friends to Include in Your Prayer Circle

**Mary Burnett of Indianapolis, IN** who lost her husband, Boyd Burnett in his unsuccessful struggle with cancer December 3, 1998. Mr. Burnett was a member of Faith United C. C. and vice-

Chair of the Board of Directors for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana.

**Lucile Compton of Cincinnati, OH** remains confined with a long-term illness. Husband John

Compton and family covet your prayers.

**Violaruth Cole of Kansas City, MO** continues a slowly progressing struggle to overcome the impact of a major stroke.

## More Public Spotlight on Disciple Retirees

*(Continued from page 3)*

ership in Christian unity with a collection of essays honoring his services called *The Vision of Christian Unity*.

The 30 year old Consultation on Christian Union recently met in an 18th. Plenary in St. Louis, MO to determine next steps in Christian union.

The Council on Christian Unity, Inc. which Crow led until his January 1999 retirement, is one of the eleven general program units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). One of its operational objectives is to nurture aspects of the denomination in developing Christian unity linkages. For example, special efforts have been made to effectively relate the leadership of the African American-led National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to counterpart Christians in the USA and around the world.

**-O. G. Reynard-**



St. Louis, MO— The News Analysis section of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for February 7, 1999 featured a Black History Month article entitled “*Can You Identify These People?*”

The Rev. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., pastor-emeritus of Centennial Christian Church, was third among the 18 African American leaders in metro St. Louis highlighted in the article. The summation under Dr. Hylton’s picture read:

*“I am the founder of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition, representing 120 predominantly African American churches in the*

*region. For three decades I pastored Centennial Christian Church, retiring at age 70. During my tenure there, I headed the construction of the Centennial Plaza and Hylton Apartments in partnership with the National Benevolent Association. I now raise funds for the Christian Church Foundation’s Black Disciples Endowment Fund.”*

### **OTHER RECOGNITION:**

Los Angeles, CA— Retiree Pastor Dan Genung reports the All Peoples Christian Center received the 1998 “Agency of the Year Award” from the United Way as the “agency that had the greatest impact on its community during 1998.”

Hawkins, TX— Jarvis College honored the 92 year old Rev. Alonzo Smith February 27, 1999. Smith received a Certificate from Jarvis in 1930 and graduated from Eureka College in Eureka, IL with former President Ronald Reagan in 1932.

## Friends to Include in Your Prayer Circle

**Alex J. Cade and family of East Lansing, MI.** Dr. Cade, a past vice chair and chair of the Board of Directors for the Board of Church Extension, has been undergoing treatment following

surgery to remove a brain tumor and subsequent small strokes. He has undergone, speech, occupational, and mobility therapy

Words of encouragement can be

sent to his home: 6263 Skyline Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823.

**Enoch W. Henry, Jr., returning to home in Palestine, TX** following residency and ministry on West Coast.

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

### Jane Elizabeth Martin Enix and Jessie Leigh Cotton Boyd



**Indianapolis, IN-** Elizabeth Enix, 92 year old retired Public School teacher for 38 years and former staff for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana and resident of the Robin Run Retirement Community, died January 18, 1999. She was a pioneer member of Second Christian Church, now called

the Light of the World congregation. Mrs. Enix aided in the establishment of Robin Run before becoming a resident. The Butler U. alumnus with graduate work in three additional schools, was elected the Vice-President and Program Chair for the National Convocation of the Christian Church. Daughter M. G. Gentry, 9 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great grandchildren are among the many mourning her loss.

**Raymore, MO-** Jessie Leigh Cotton Boyd, 83, , died February 4, 1999 at Foxwood Springs Living Center. Memorial services were held at Raymore Christian Church and memorial contributions made to the Fellowship of John. She was a quietly supportive companion of her husband, Robert Boyd, who preceded her in death August 31, 1998. Senior Minister Richard Rintamaa, pastor at Raymore Christian Church, conducted the Service.

### Clarence McBride Doss Service Without Eulogy Quietly Moves Many



**Raymore, MO-** Clarence Doss, retired pastor, and resident of the Foxwood Springs Retirement

Community, succumbed to terminal cancer January 23, 1999. The graduate of Transylvania University, Lexington, KY; the Divinity School of University of Chicago, and San Francisco Theological Seminary, served six congregations in four states for 42 years. He retired in 1989 to serve eight more congregations in two states as an interim minister with special preparation.

The memorial service which he designed occurred at Raymore Christian Church and had no in-

clusion of a eulogy. However, *were doing was their call, and they did it with great patience, perseverance and love.*" religious experience.

The Doss family shared the following words of Henri J. M. Nouwen on "Hidden Greatness" as their thanksgiving for Dr. Doss and those who joined them in memorial:

*"Still, real greatness is often hidden, humble, simple, and unobtrusive. It is not easy to trust ourselves and our actions without public affirmation. We must have strong self-confidence combined with deep humility. Some of the greatest works of art and the most important works of peace were created by people who had no need for the limelight. They knew that what they*

Pastor Doss leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, Betty Jean Bruckner, of Johnson City, TX and two daughters; Anne Elizabeth and Carol Jean. Anne is married to Sandy Hansen and they have two children, Audra and David. A son, Richard Paul, who died in 1989. His two children, Richard Charles and Jillian Elizabeth, who are among the grandchildren mourning the loss of Clarence McBride Doss.



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

### Cheerful Mae Wynn Alphin; William R. Brown; Rachel Olivia Johnson



**St. Louis, MO- Cheerful Alphin,** retired public school teacher and church / community worker, homegoing January 25, 1999 in local infirmary. Memorialized January 30 in Centennial Christian Church, her home congregation, with Pastor Emeritus Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., providing the eulogy. Associated worship leadership was given by Senior Minister, T. Eugene Fisher, Sr. Marriage to her late husband, William Alphin, linked her to the Alphin heritage of pioneer effort in Disciples of Christ history and the establishment of Jarvis Christian College. Her Christian commitment was reflected in her performance as a mother of four children; a public school teacher; active member of Centennial Christian Church; and involvement in social and civic affairs.

**Raymore, MO- William R. Brown, Sr.** A celebrative home-going service was held at the Foxwood Springs Living Center March 1, 1999 for the 95 year old paint producer and distributor who passed away in a local infirmary February 25. Brown required his children to learn a verse of scripture which begins with each letter of the alphabet; taught a Bible class and led major stewardship campaigns at Country Club Christian Church for a half century.

He retired to Foxwood Springs where he continued to raise beautiful flowers; instituted the annual "Best Tomato Contest" for Foxwood gardeners, and climaxed his efforts to lead campaigns for worthy humanitarian causes by co-chairing a successful area-wide drive for funds to complete the construction of Foxwood's Alzheimer unit complex. Residents gave \$1,543.687 of the \$2,000, 000 received.



**Rachel Olivia Johnson, Raymore, MO,** a 93 year old retired practical nurse, went home February 8, 1999 in the Foxwood Springs Retirement Center following a long period of illness. She was a native of Natchez, MS and moved to St. Louis, MO to prepare for a nursing career and serve many years in the Barnes Medical Center.

She is survived by her children, Elmo Alonzo Johnson, Jr. of St. Louis, MO, and Violaruth Cole and husband, K. David Cole, of Kansas City, MO; grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



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If you see the evidence for life after death, remember that the Bible says

Christ died to pay the price for our sins, and that all who believe in Him will receive the gifts of forgiveness and everlasting life..."

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### THE EMPTY TOMB



**T**hen Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"... And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things...

Now there was a man named Joseph from...Arimathea... a good and righteous man who... went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb where no

one had ever yet been laid...

The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested... But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold two men

stood by them in dazzling apparel, and as they were frightened and bowed their heads to the ground, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told this to the eleven and to all the rest.

*Luke 23:46, 49-50, 52-56; 24:1-10 (RSV)*



# THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Volume IX Issue 3

May – June 1999

Raymore, Missouri

## RAYMOND BROWN: A PROVEN GENERAL CHURCH STAFF INTERIM— by O. T. Reynard

*Special points of interest:*

1. Factors in the critical status of African American Disciples of Christ Ministry
2. Examples of clergy and congregations within Divine Providence that sustain the Mission
3. Suggestion of questions confronting effective 21st Century Christian Ministry
4. An In-depth view of Worship/Worshipship

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Ray E. Brown and Interim Ministry</i>	2
<i>Positive Symbols in New Unit President</i>	2
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<i>For Whom Bells Toll</i>	5
<i>Twists of Providence and Ministry</i>	6
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<i>A Jackson on Worship and Worshipship</i>	8

**I**ndianapolis, IN— Since Raymond E. Brown retired in 1991 as Senior Vice-President of the Board of Church Extension after 21 years of pioneer administrative service, he has been an outstanding example of a slowly vanishing specie of Christian church leadership. He is a retired, experience proven, African American clergyman who is, competent and available to do interim ministries.



Ray Brown has provided six months administrative interim service terms twice as President for the Church Finance Council. Within the Division of Homeland Ministries he has served six months interim terms as Vice President for Center for Education and Mission; Vice President - Center for Congregational Growth and Vitality; and Vice President - Center for Leadership and Ministry.

Within the Office of the General Minister and President he has been an interim Administrative Secretary twice for the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church. The second term came recently to enable a sabbatical leave for John Foulkes, the current executive staff officer.

Dr. Brown has been providing a delicate and technical ministry. It is generally understood that the interim minister functions for a formally contracted short-term period of time. During the brief tenure

his/or her role is to nurture the spiritual health of the church body being served; encourage the conservation of it's mission objectives; and contribute to a general environment of acceptance for the new Christian or returning leadership.

Meantime, if new leadership is desired, a "Search Committee" mounts a search process in close alignment with Divine Providence. The process is minus the intrusion of the interim minister.

Contrary to belief of many, the interim is not expected to influence the decisions made by the task force or steer the flow of Divine Providence. His/or her advice and counsel should be considered as one of several resources available to the search task force for information. The interim minister in-put is not regarded as a final or determinative factor.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Shortage of African American Disciple Ministers Still a Critical Issue on the Entire Church Scene

(From Page 1)

Brown has provided this difficult ministry successfully with mutual benefits for both the church and his continuing commitment to professional Christian service.

This has been especially true recently following his second interim ministry term for the Church Finance Council of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church. The general church unit selected its second woman to serve as Council president; as well as its first president who is an African American Disciples of Christ minister.

During the meeting of the Administrative Committee of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) January 31-February 2, 1999, Search Committee recommendations to elect Lois Artis Murray, Wake Forest, N.C., associate general minister and Church Finance Council president were confirmed.

She is a former assistant secretary for administration with the North

Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources in Raleigh. Since 1996, she and her spouse, the Rev. Samuel J. Murray, have been co-pastors of St. Andrews Christian Church, Dudley, N.C. Lois Murray began the new assignment May 10.

### Positive Symbols in The Lois A. Murray Election

*\*She is the daughter of an African American Disciples of Christ minister who pioneered as a bivocational pastor on the Eastern Seaboard. He succeeded in meeting unique churchmanship challenges.*

*\*She is an ordained Disciples minister with formal preparation in business administration and meaningful experience in both areas.*

*\*Her husband is a Disciples of Christ minister. His father, also a clergyman, provided pioneer leadership for Disciples of Christ in the challenging region of Alabama/Northwest Florida.*

### WILL THESE QUESTIONS CONFRONT THE PRACTICE OF MINISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

*\*A reinterpretation of the Cross of Calvary and full-time Christian commitment?*

*\*A reassessment of the necessity for a professionally prepared and set apart ministry?*

*\*A "fresh look" at the need for intentional recruitment for Church as a not-for-profit corporation within a world dominated by profit-seeking corporations?*

*\*A reexamination of the foundation principles in Christian faith to relate to the new world of technology?*

*\*Possessing the "right" color, racial origin, social class and sexual orientation to assure "successful performance" of Christian ministry? — O. T. Reynard-*

## A Diminishing Number of African American Disciple Retired Clergy Combines With a Scarcity of Ministers to Produce a Leadership Crisis

**C**urrently nearly a third of the less than a dozen African American Disciples of Christ ministers who are willing and able to do interim church ministries is being provided by the family of Dr. Raymond E. Brown..

*A brother, Robert Brown, is Interim Pastor, at United Christian Church, and a son, Raymond L., is serving Third Christian Church, Louisville, KY.*

*This small group receives few opportunities to do interim church*

*leadership service. The scarcity of interim ministers, especially among the African American members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), heightens the recurring crisis of a shortage of qualified Disciples of Christ*

*(Continued on page 3)*

## DHM HONORS BLACK CLERGY WHO HAVE SERVED 50 YEARS PLUS

**N**ashville, TN- During the twenty-fifth Annual Black Minister's Retreat held here March 1-4, 1999 led by Charles E. Webb, Jr, Director of Black Ministries, the Division of Homeland Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), citations of honor were given to ten senior clergy who had rendered 50 or more years of ministerial service. The following were selected as examples of the broad landscape of ministry across which many dedicated clergy operate.

**\*A. M. Cogdell, resident of Hempstead, N. C.**, currently serving the Goldsboro/Raleigh Assembly affiliated St. Paul Church of Christ, in Newbern, N.C. Pastor Cogdell is a product of Goldsboro Christian Institute, with more than 50 years of leadership at all levels in the Goldsboro/Raleigh Assembly, except that of being a Bishop. He has been the faithful pastor of the averaged sized (i. e. 200 plus) membership of St. Paul in the town of Hempstead for more than 20 years. Life and work in that congregation has encouraged two or more young persons to accept the call to prepare for full-time Christian service.

**\*King David Cole, Kansas City, MO**, a native of Little Rock, AR, with 50 plus years of service which began with preparation at College of the Scriptures in Louisville and Brite Divinity School, Dallas, TX; teaching in Winston Salem Bible College, Winston, Salem, NC; and pastorates in Greenville, TX; Oklahoma City, OK; Dallas, TX, and Kansas City, MO. His ministry has featured extensive lecturing and sermonizing on invitation, plus election to several general and regional church boards and committees. This led to election to the moderatorship of the denomination's General Assembly. Recent retirement has enabled an interim after-glo ministry in institutional development with the central office of the National Benevolent Association.

**\*Benjamin F. Fleming, Phoenix, ARIZ.** Formal preparation at Jarvis Christian College enabled the Lynchburg, VA born Disciple clergyman to provide congregational ministries in Texas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and finally to pioneer in the establishment of a mission center in Phoenix, AR where the 85 year old faithful minister has retired.

**\*William K. Fox, Sr., Raymore, MO**, a "PK" in youth nurtured in the National/American Baptist traditions; oriented and committed to the Disciples of Christ ministry through a college professor and mentor, and associations with committed Disciple members in the life of church and seminary. Initially joined with Mrs Fox as faculty and field staff for a mission school in Mississippi; became a bi-vocational minister for a congregation while on the faculty and personnel staff for a Land Grant College in Nashville, TN; senior minister ten years for a congregation in St. Louis, MO; administrative director for councils of churches in Indianapolis, IN and the state of New Jersey; executive staff for a community improvement association; senior minister for congregation in Ohio; and ten years as an administrative staff member in the General Office of the denomination. During 15 years of retirement has edited a newsletter; volunteer work in the Foxwood Springs community and Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX; and provided interim ministries for congregations in Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas.

**\*E. L. Griffin, native of Mississippi**, now retired in Flint, MI after more than 50 years as an dedicated Disciples of Christ minister and public school educator. Following attendance at two church sponsored institutional mission schools, he launched most notable career as a teacher and public school administrator; senior minister for a yoked field of two to four congregations

(Continued on page 4)

## Only Mega Sized Congregations in Indiana, Tennessee and Georgia Demonstrate Some Success in Ministerial Recruitment and Placement

(Continued from page 2)

ministers available for church leadership, especially within the African American community. This crisis in ministerial leadership continues, as it did a generation ago, in spite of the number of

increased scholarships and grants available to support ministerial students in preparation for full time service.

Mega sized congregations like Light of the World in Indianapolis, IN; Mississippi Boulevard in

Memphis, TN; and Ray of Hope in Decatur, GA are among the few African American-led congregations having a degree of success in recruitment for the ministry and aid in providing in-service training and eventual placement. —W.K.F, Sr — A Retired African American Clergy

## SUMMARY OF SERVICES SHOWS VARIED PICTURE OF MINISTRY

*(Continued from page 3)*

in Clarksdale, Shelby, and Mound Bayou, Mississippi; was a regular attendant and participant in district and regional and general church assemblies; a veteran board member and elected officer. Elder Griffin he has served in all of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention leadership offices.

**\*R. E. Hancock, Jr, Louisville, KY,** a "PK" and retired Disciples of Christ minister who was born into a rich family tradition of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) clergy and lay leaders. Pastor Hancock, Jr was motivated to the ministry early through his father, R. E. Hancock, Sr who was a notable Bible-centered pulpiteer. His father had outstanding pastorates in Louisville, KY; Kansas City, KS and pioneer leadership in the establishment of the Disciple of Christ witness in Brooklyn, NY. R. E. Hancock, Jr. settled in Louisville, KY to serve a metro congregation for more than two generations before recent retirement.

**\*James L. Melvin, Goldsboro, N. C.,** a native of Clinton, N.C.; founded a Bible group in his home at 14; graduate of Southern Christian Institute/Jarvis Christian College; student pastor for Mississippi congregations; St. James. Durham, N. C. organizing and founding pastor; a Director of Goldsboro Disciple Institute, and esteemed senior pastor of the St. Mark Church of Christ for the past 43 years. Elevated to two consecutive terms as Bishop in the Goldsboro/Raleigh District of Churches of Christ. Disciples of Christ; for years acting as a bridge of understanding and cooperation between the Eastern Seaboard Assemblies churches and sister congregations known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and participant in many regional, and general assemblies.

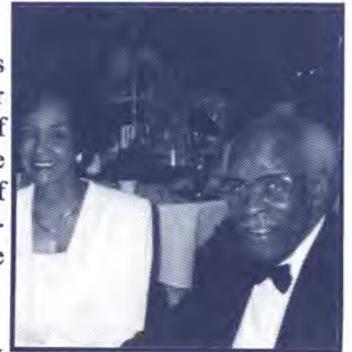
**\*Zellie M. Peoples,** the native Texan and faithful Disciple of Christ in her 90's, currently residing in Indianapolis, IN; foundational support for her mission oriented late husband, Robert Hayes Peoples. While Dr. Peoples functioned as a senior African American church statesman and counselor for more than a half century, Zellie Peoples was at his side all the way. They rendered special ministries in church related colleges in Mississippi, and Texas; congregations in all shapes and sizes. For more than a generation she was Secretary-Treasurer for National Christian Missionary Convention scholarship funds, Christian Women Fellowship groups, and Minister's Wives/Spouses Fellowships. When housing accommodations and national church facilities were difficult to use for African American church leaders, she opened her home to all doing God's work and encouraged the congregation they served in Indianapolis, In to do likewise. Leaders across the nation, regardless of race or color, gathered at Second Christian Church to devise national strategies to forward the mission of a united body of Christ. She was a faithful home missions enabler's help mate.

**\*Earl Wadsworth Rand, native of Lodi, TX ,** President Emeritus of Jarvis Christian College, residing in Marshall, TX, was born to ardently independent, land-owning farmer parents who had about a 3rd grade education. Seemingly, their slave heritage background motivated them to push their son, Earl, down the path of securing high quality education. His student years at Jarvis College included experiencing the Great Depression. Lacking truck transportation both at home and on the campus, Dr. Rand was forced to ride one of his father's mules from Lodi to Hawkins, TX so that an arrangement his father had made with the college president to give the mule to the school as partial payment on Earl's unpaid bills was fulfilled. Following college and later, graduate school preparation, he pursued a winding path through secular, public and private and institutions of higher education in the Southwest. Always allied to the Church and related organizations; yet buffeted by social and world events; he eventually became the seventh president of Jarvis Christian College in 1976. The physical education building named in his honor is one symbol of his success.

**\*E. B. Washington, Summerville, TX,** a retired 93 year old ordained Disciples of Christ minister who once served the region as principal of a high school; pastor of the Clay Street Christian Church of Waco; and moderator of Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship District church work in the Summerville area for many years.



Zellie M. Peoples



The K. David Coles



The William K. Foxes



Earl Wadsworth Rand

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

**Mary B. Carty, Raymore, MO**, a retired Disciples of Christ minister who had been associated with her late husband, Lawrence McCarty, in several Christian ministries throughout America, made the great transition March 14, 1999 in the Foxwood Springs Living Center. During her youth the 93 year old dedicated and ordained clergy, was about to make a public commitment to be a missionary to China just before opportunity to perform such services in that nation were officially forbidden by that government. Mary was born in near Perry, MO to Frank and Effie Leonard as the eldest daughter of six.

Glenn Shoemaker, a resident of Foxwood Springs and a retired Disciples of Christ minister who had been associated with the McCartys Christian ministry, made observations on aspects of Mary's long life of service. Charlotte Shoemaker, Glenn's wife, captioned his remarks with a solo. Foxwood Springs Chaplain



Mary B. Carty Leaves for Reunion with Fruitful Team Ministry Member

Lloyd closed the memorial celebration by pointing out theological implications of Mary B. Carty's faithful witness.

Her homegoing marked the completion of a fruitful team ministry which began with her husband, Lawrence Carty in 1928. He was an ordained Disciples of Christ minister, who preceded her in death in June 1993. After graduation from Culver-Stockton

College in Canton, MO in 1927, they used their artistic gifts in instrumental music, singing, photography and preaching to render inspiring service in public schools and congregations in Colorado, Illinois and Missouri. They jointly conducted more than 200 evangelistic services. Mary McCarty planned and led one of their tours of Disciples of Christ mission stations around the world.

Mary B. McCarty is survived by two sisters, Margaret Morrow of Benicia, Cal; Lucile Hill, Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore, MO; and more than 40 nieces and nephews spanning three generations.



## AMONG OTHERS FOR WHOM THE BELLSTOLL

**Humphrey Kavanaugh Jackson, Dayton, OH**- a 93 year old member of Summit Christian Church for more than 50 years, passed away March 2, 1999. Jackson was born in Camargo, KY and resided in Dayton for 58

years. Memorial services were conducted in his home church with Senior Minister J. Thomas as the officiant. Participants in the service reflected upon Kavanaugh Jackson's service on the usher, deacon, and elder's boards

and his membership in the Gospel Choir, Disciples Men's Fellowship, and McLes Family Club. Among the many who mourn are his wife, Marguerite; daughter, Geneva Cooper; step-daughter, Gaile

*(Continued on page 6)*

## THE TWISTS OF PROVIDENCE VIA AGENTS OF GOD'S GRACE JOIN TO GUIDE BLACK MINISTERIAL PLACEMENT IN CHRIST'S CHURCH

**S**ince an expected report on the current status of Black Disciples of Christ Ministry, did not come to **OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE** before "lock-up time," the following information is shared as an illustration of how God's Spirit driven purpose often works out through those dedicated to do the Divine will. The content of this article came to the **OLDTIMERS** on an unsolicited, but Providential basis. - Editor/Mgr-

**Tulsa, OK**— Zella M. Hunter, a member of the Pine Street Christian Church here, recently informed the **OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE** that on March 21, 1999 William W. Simms, Senior Minister for the Wildewood Christian Church of Oklahoma City, OK brought the dedication message for the installation of Lawrence Gray of Oklahoma City, OK as the new pastor of Pine Street Church.

The Wildewood Christian Church choir provided special music.

Pastor Gray has a Master of Divinity Degree from the Interdenomina-

tional Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. Gray served as associate to Senior Pastor Simms at Wildewood from 1981 to 1994 and was ordained into the Disciples of Christ ministry in 1992. He has aided other congregations in Oklahoma.



**Jackson, MS**— Now hear this testimony from **Russell H. Myers**: "I am the Russell Myers who resided in Fort Worth, TX. I did my graduate work at Fort Worth at Brite Divinity School (Texas Christian University). Prior to Brite, I attended and graduated from Jarvis Christian College. Emmett Dickson drove me from , Light of the World Christian Church my home church in Indianapolis... where Bishop T. G. Benjamin, Jr. is pastor. He also flew to Fort Worth, and I was ordained by him at Community Christian Church.

I answered the call to pastor United Christian Church in September of last year (1998) and was installed in November... United has begun to grow, first spiritually, and second, numerically; but there is still a lot of work to be done..."

### AGENTS OF GOD'S GRACE IN THE "TESTIMONIES"

\***Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX**— The historically Black led college which provided foundational education for each of the "actors" in these "testimonies."

\***William W. Simms, a graduate of Jarvis College and Lexington Theological Seminary, the founding pastor of Wildewood CC 27 years ago; an evangelistic oriented congregation key in alerting the Regional Church to outreach opportunity.**

\***T. Garrett Benjamin, Jr. the Christian Theological Seminary graduate, respected Bishop for an historically foundational congregation in the life of the denomination; a very successful source for recruits to the Ministry.**

\***Emmett Dickson, the late clerical mentor who made recruitment to ministry a life-long passionate pursuit.**

\***Lawrence Gray and Russell Myers and members of congregations in Oklahoma and Mississippi who remained open and faithful to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the face of an affluent and highly critical society.**

\***Christians supporting scholarships.**

### More Examples of Those For Whom the Bells Toll

(Continued from page 5)

McLemore of Dayton, OH; brother, Samuel (Robin) Jackson of Cincinnati, OH; sister, Sarah Garrett of Paris, KY; grandson, Delbert Cooper, Seattle, WA; granddaughter, Jodie Mussinon of Detroit, MI; 4 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren;

and many nieces, nephews & cousins.

\*\*

#### Nottingham Matriarch Was Nearing Century

**Mary Nottingham, Indianapolis, IN**- March 27, 1999. The

Nottingham Household Matriarch was on the threshold of becoming 100 years old. Among many survivors is a son, retired Disciples of Christ general church administrator, William (Bill) Nottingham. Homecoming services were held at Downey Avenue Christian Church.

## Thanks for Sharing. It Keeps us Going!

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## When you worship have you given God any "worthship?" Excerpts from a sermon by Alvin O'Neal Jackson, Senior Minister, National City Christian Church, Washington, D. C.

**H**ave you been to worship lately? Have you had fellowship with God... Have you given Him, who is worthy, 'worship?' That's what worship is. Giving God 'worthship.' Giving Him value and praise and adoration. Praise is always active, assertive, demonstrative, expressive and open. It is never passive, reserved, restrained, cool, frigid or rigid.

It may be quiet, it may be loud. But it is giving Him who is worthy, 'worthship.'

We worship a lot of things: our houses, cars, clothes, our degrees, our positions, our mates, our dates, our traditions and denominations. There is only one: the Lord God Jehovah is His name. 'You shall worship the Lord, our God... Him only shall you serve...'

Many of us miss Him in worship... How can we come to church to supposedly celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ, but...never see

Him? Never feel His presence, because we have smothered him in our stuff?

We're often good at working, but not on worshipping. Big on activities, but small on adoration... If we ever get victory in our worship, we will get victory in our living...

We need to overhear the worship of the saints in heaven. That's what John the Revelator did in his old age. (Rev. 19:1-6) ...He saw what he had never seen before. '...he hears the echo of the redeemed in heaven (singing) glory and power and honor unto the Lord our God... Amen! Hallelujah!'

'... catch a vision of the redeemed in worship. The first note of worship is submission to the will of God...also commitment to the purpose of God. It's in the word 'amen.' Amen means 'so be it.' God's will be done. It's an opportunity to practice submission to the will of God. When we ... worship, we ought to have an 'amen' on

our lips and in our hearts. Genuine worship is also commitment to the purpose of God. 'Amen' is also about saying, Lord what would you have me do to accomplish with your will...

Third, worship is joy in the fellowship of God. When you put together the Hebrew word Hallelujah' it means to be excited about, to brag on God, even to the point of appearing foolish. Just enjoying God, just boasting about how good God is, it's liberty in the spirit... God in worship expects us to get close to Him ...

We have the assurance of victory. That's the fourth point of worship. We know how this thing is going to turn out. We know not when, we know not how long, but we know that in the end love and peace and joy will reign supreme. We don't have to wait until the battle is over, we can shout now!

*\*Source: The Washington Times. Paper prints a selected sermon every Monday.*

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# THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Volume IX Issue 4

July – August 1999

Raymore, Missouri

### Special points of interest:

- Touching base with persons still on stage in Mississippi where historic acts in Christian mission continue to occur
- Lifting up the lives of the saints who have fallen, but who will rise again
- There works to follow them and inspire us.

## A Magnolia Land Revisitation *by*

**William K. and Reubena M. S. Fox, Raymore, MO**

**S**ome 57 years after our first residency in Mississippi, the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the end of World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement, we revisited the Magnolia State in May 1999.

Symbols of that pulsating half century still lay shinning under Spanish Moss hanging loosely from the trees. These were years when devastating social circumstances permeated the Mississippi social fabric. But the Church continued to sponsor mission efforts which nurtured and prepared many African Americans to confront negative conditions with confidence and courage. Many migrated throughout America and became lay and clergy leaders within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Today some continue to make a difference for Christ in various places.



Left to right, Wm Fox, Russell Myers, Reubena Fox, Ruth Hobbs, Seated, Ada Boyd

We returned to touch home base and renew fellowship with friends like Ada Boyd, a true practitioner of southern hospitality; Russell Myers, a dedicated minister recently called from Fort Worth, TX to lead and energize Jackson's United Christian Church; Ruth Hobbs, veteran lay leader, friend and longtime co-worker in many church endeavors; and Mannelta Walker, loyal church member and friend of the family ever since her student days at Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, MS and when we were on the faculty.

We sensed a new day dawning for Mississippians who were prepared to seize

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

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Peering through the ancient trees in front the famous Dinning Hall at Southern Christian Institute toward Smith Hall, the Girls Dorm.

## Some Signs of the New Day in Magnolia Land

*(Continued from page 1)*

opportunities for progress. We revisited the site of Southern Christian Institute, one of the historic church mission endeavors three miles west of Edwards, Mississippi. The school no longer operates, but her buildings stand quietly amid hanging Spanish Moss and Magnolia trees silently proclaiming the church's historic commitment to Christian service.

We learned that Norweida Roberts, lay leader in the predominantly African American United Church, Jackson, MS, crossed historic social boundaries April 17, 1999 when she presided as President over the 115<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mississippi.

William McKnight, the Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mississippi for nearly 30 years, has encouraged the growth of a human relations environment where Christian reconciliation and progress across racial lines might occur. The heroic work done by various Christian Womens Fellowship groups in cooperation with others within and outside the state during this period, is faithfully summarized in a document by Ruth Powell Hobbs called "Forty Years of Drum Beat." Ruth serves as the Regional Church historian for all the congregations.



Mannetta Walker, on the right, hosts the Revisitation Tour members Reubena Fox and Ruth Hobbs as they stand in front of the Magnolia tree on her front lawn.

Harvey Johnson, the first African American Mayor of Jackson, MS., convened a special Millenium Celebration Commission meeting for Metropolitan Jackson the week-end of our revisitation. Jessie B. Moseley, the 92 year old former Dean of Women at Southern Christian Institute



Mrs. Fox holds an Olympic T Shirt as she stands next to Dr. Jessie B. Moseley, the 92 year old Dixie Ledgend. Dr. Moseley wore that shirt when she carried the Olympic Torch she's holding in the Jackson leg of the 1997 Olympic games held in Atlanta, Ga.

and librarian at Jarvis Christian College, was preparing to attend. She is the appointed Chair of the Task Force on Metro History. Dr. Moseley is the veteran Mississippi

State Convener for the National Council of Negro Women. The Mississippi Branch of the NNCW has purchased the former Oklona College facilities and campus in Oklona, MS and is making plans for developing a community multi-service center.

On Memorial Day, Fred T. Nolan, an alumnus of that first class which graduated from Tougaloo College after it merged with Southern Christian Institute, favored us with a windshield tour of suburban Jackson. Nolan's long time membership on the Jackson Planning Commission has enabled him to know a lot about development in the city. We saw recently constructed buildings on Tougaloo College campus and noted the current restoration of traditional campus buildings, like the chapel.

A few miles northeast is a modern mega shopping mall artfully placed near modern motels, hotels and specialty restaurants. A few blocks further east we saw high costing subdivisions bordering the expansive Ross Barnett

# Baby-boomers Seek New Goals on Horizon

*(Continued from page 2)*

ing subdivisions bordering the expansive Ross Barnett Reservoir. It was Memorial Day week-end, and crowds of people were in the Spillway. They crammed onto the recreational rides in the Amusement Park. Others used a variety of boats, water skiffs and skies to ply the 25 acres of water which make up Rapids on the Reservoir. Still others grappled with fishing poles and tackle in a struggle to capture the slippery game in its depths.

Sunday afternoon Ada Boyd, our hostess, invited friends to gather in her home for a Fellowship Buffet Event. Here, along with the seniors, we revisited church members of the baby-boomer generation. A supervisor of a crisis center; a free-lance artist and crafts person; founder and operator of a successful insurance agency; an electronic corporation technician with 30 years of tenure; and public school teachers. The boomers were native Mississippians who reflected new goals for living on the Magnolia land horizons.

More than 100 years ago a C. C. Smith and J. B. Lehman supervised the preparation, selection and sending out of Southern Christian Institute students as preachers and teachers. Their basic commission was to evangelize and establish Christian Churches mainly within the rapidly growing Black communities all over America.

Here in rural Hinds County, more than 50 years ago, high



We revisited the S. C. I. "A" building which housed the heart of instruction, library and assembly. Students like Rosa Welch and Emmett Dickson were prepared well here to serve all.



The SCI Dining Hall shown above was the rock bed of campus life. Meals prepared included on-site produced cattle, vegetables and fruit. They sustained students, faculty, and hundreds attendees of institutes, seminars and assemblies.

social hurdles in church and community separated the races. National Christian Missionary Convention leaders urged African American laymen, clerymen and youth from across the nation to journey to Edwards, MS and enroll in short-term training programs in Christian education and congregational leadership.

The invitations were encouraged by returned missionaries on the SCI faculty; educators like the late Charles C. Moseley, S.C.I. Dean, and John Long, S.C.I. President. Administrative staffs from the United Christian Missionary Society in Indianapolis cooperated. Events were directed by skilled professionals like the late Patrick Henry Moss, Deetsey Blackburn, Robert H. Peoples, Bessie Chandler, Charles E. Webb, Sr., Camella Jamison Barnes, and Lorenzo J. Evans.

Today, within the life of a maturing mainline denomination, Charles E. Webb, Jr, is a General Church staff member following in his father's footsteps as the Director of Black Ministries. He administers national ministerial scholarship support programs and training events.

Today Ozark Range, Sr, a retired Disciples of Christ minister, and predecessor of Charles Webb, Jr, has re-

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Untapped Potentials for Christian Citizenship Ahead

*(Continued from page 2)*

general church staff member to carry out interim ministry assignments in Jackson, MS and Lexington, KY. His wife, Mildred Range, also a native Mississippian and minister, is providing volunteer ministerial assistance to the physically ailing Senior Minister Aaron Johnson of the Percy Street Christian Church in Greenwood, MS

In August 1999, Tom Harris, another alumnus of the first class to graduate from Tougaloo/Christian College ( name assigned immediately after the 1954 merger), will celebrate the anniversary of his 50<sup>th</sup>. year in the Christian ministry. Pastor Harris is a native Mississippian who felt called to preach when a he was in grade school. He began to serve congregations while a youth and at the same time pursued



Tom Harris, Port Gibson, MS- 50 Years in Ministry

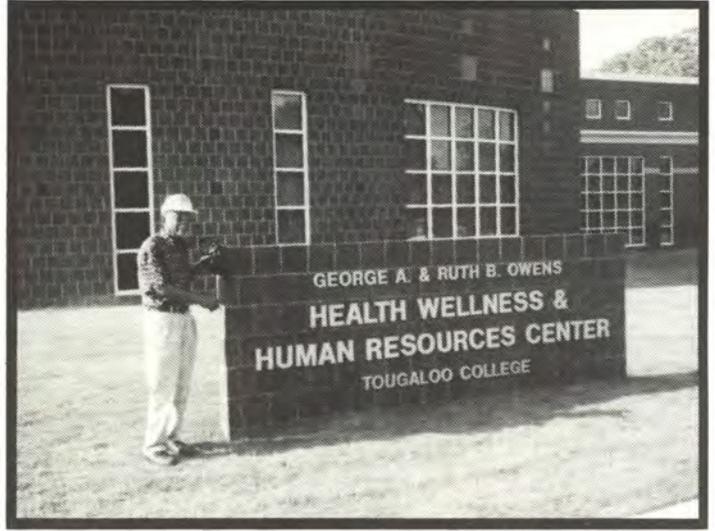
high school and college education in formal preparation to become a Disciples of Christ minister. He became Mississippi's first full-time African American pastor.

Alvin O. Jackson, also a native Mississippian and senior minister at National City Christian Church in Washington, D. C. was engaged to be the principal speaker at the Harris Ordination Anniversary celebration.

As a youth, Jackson grew up in Indianaola, MS as a member of the Indianapola Christian (Disciples of Christ) congregation where Tom Harris served as the pastor.

The upturn in economic development in Mississippi has surfaced new human concerns. There are critical needs for adequate child care. This is especially true for families with working mothers, single parent heads, or where both parents are employed.

We made a brief stop at the child care center at United Christian Church where, more than 30 years ago, lay church leaders pioneered in setting it up. We also made a brief stop at the child care center which was founded a few years ago by our hostess, Ada Boyd. Ada is drawing upon her college degree in Early Childhood Education to direct a



The Human Resources Center at Tougaloo symbolizes new trends in higher education. Through the SCI/Tougaloo Merger agreement Disciples of Christ have Board memberships and commit a annual amount to the operational college budget.



Hope for tomorrow begins here. Empty chairs belong to students in the Boyd's Early Development Childhood Center-who were in a nearby church practicing for a "graduation."

staff and manage an accredited child care operation.

Our revisitation of Magnolia Land, U. S. A. revealed a new day dawning in community improvement. All praise be to the God of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; the giver of all gifts of blessing and human fulfillment.

**For Whom the Bells Toll:**

♥**G. Curtis Jones, Sr, Jacksonville, FL** May 10, 1999, memorialized May 13, 1999

Resident of NBA's Cypress Village Retirement Community

Formal preparation Lynchburg College (VA); Yale University Divinity School (Conn)

Served in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, Iowa and Georgia;

Pastorates included Union Avenue CC, St. Louis, MO and Park Avenue CC, New York

Wrote 21 books and articles for numerous magazines and journals

**Left to carry on household tradition,** wife, Sybil Jones and three sons, G. Curis Jones, Jr, a former president of the denomination's Division of Higher Education; Paul H. Jones, dean of the chapel at Transylvania University (KY); Robert D. S. Jones (GA); David L. F. Jones, British Columbia

♥**Alonzo L. Smith, May, 1999,** in Jefferson, TX Moved to Hawkins, TX in fall of 1913, one year after the establishment of Jarvis Institue.

Elementary, highschool, two years of College at Jarvis Christian College; graduate of Eureka College (IL) with former President Ronald Reagan as a classmate; Special representative for Leonard Custom Tailors Company of Cincinnati (OH)

Drygoods Store operator in Jefferson and Marshall, TX. Former member of the Jarvis Board of Trustees and a President of the Jarvis Alumni Association; Founder and President of the Marion County Progressive Voters League

Ordained a Disciples of Christ minister in 1953; served congregations in Texas

**Placed in Jarvis Christian College's First Pioneers Hall of Fame** induction ritual in October 1994.

♥**Leroy Venerable, Kansas City, MO** June 30, 1999 Member of Central Christian Church, Kansas City, MO

Meat cutter in Swift Packing Company; a veteran Boy Scout Leader, member of Mic-O-Say Tribe, and skilled camper; Married to Sammie Elois Hurtt for 50 years.

The union produced seven children which resulted in six marriages, seventeen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

**Left to lead the household,** wife Sammie Venerable, veteran Head Start Program supporter and an "Elder Emeritus" in Central Christian Church

♥**Lucile H. Compton, Cincinnati, OH** July 3, 1999, St. John's Christian Church

Formal preparation: Jarvis Christian College (TX); University of Cincinnati (OH)

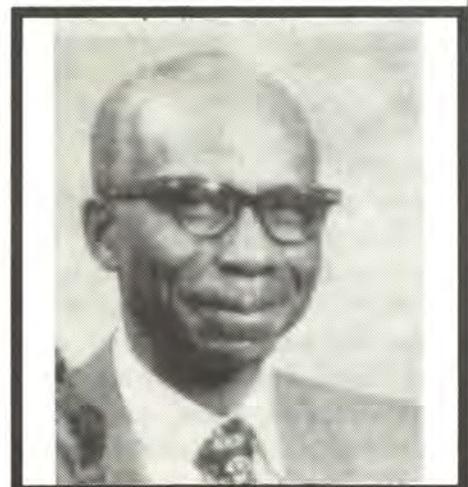
Teacher and administrator in Cincinnati Public Schools for 40 years

Lay leader in congregational life and work in Texas, Georgia, Kentucky and Ohio. Was chair for Christian Education and President for Minister's Wives Fellowship; Wrote and published a Minister's Wives Fellowship and led in establishing a Minister's Wives Endowed Scholarship Fund at Christian Theological Seminary (IN); Joined husband in establishing a "John R. and Lucile A. Compton Scholarship Fund at Jarvis Christian College.

**Left to maintain the Household-heritage:** husband, John R.



Compton, retired Disciples of Christ minister and a former President of the denomination's Division of Homeland Ministries; daughter, Lenita Jacqueline Bunch, a recent President of the International Christian Women's Fellowship; son, John R. Compton, Jr; three sisters and their spouses; seven grandchildren; and several in-laws, distant relatives and friends.



♥**Daniel W. Heath, Rockford, IL** June 22, 1999 at First Christian Church

Formal preparation: Jackson State College (MS); Butler University

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

(IN) The Hermanville, MS native was married to Dessie Lee McAfee for 61 years; union produced two sons, John and Oscar, preceded him in death.

Wife, Dessie, five grandchildren and related kin remain to assure the ongoing of the family traditions.

First African American teacher hired in Rockford public schools. Heath pastorates aided unification of congregations in Jackson, MS; aid in purchase of new church facilities in Roanoke, VA

Heath led in the purchase of new facilities for the Second Church in Rockford, before becoming the founding Pastor for First Christian; gave leadership in the Men's and Ministers' Wives and Fellowship groups related to the National Christian Missionary Convention and the National Convocation.

City of Rockford honored him by naming the street of his residence, "Heath Street."

♥**Louise E. Vertreese, Kansas City, MO, July 17, 1999**

Formal preparation: public schools in Texas; Western University (KS); Marriage for 59 years to Garfield W. Vertreese, who preceded her in death. Her dedication to family and motherhood produced four sons and three daughters; twenty grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

She was a devote member of Central Christian Church. When health permitted, she was an early participant in the Model Cities effort in Kansas City, the neighborhood community council and the Parent Teachers Association.

**The tradition of the Vertreese Houseld is assured** through the witness of the sons and daughters living in Michigan, North Carolina, and Missouri and many relatives and friends.



♥**Cornelius W. Arnold, Los Angeles, CA, July 27, 1999**

Formal preparation: Southern Christian Institute, MS; Jarvis Christian College, TX; College of Emporia, KS; Chapman College, CA. Served as minister/evangelist and a founding pastor in Ohio, Oklahoma, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Southern California.

Founder & Pastor of 92<sup>nd</sup> CC in Los Angeles, CA for 42 years 1945-87. Periodically engaged as a restaurant and grocery entrepreneur.

Veteran elected officer and leader in local and regional N.A.A.C.P. branches.

Supported denominational state, regional, and national conventions and plenaries. Recipients of his liberality include the National Benevolent Association where he established the

"C. W. And Alpha Arnold Fund for Scholars Fund" with a gift of \$52,000

He was on the founding Board of Directors for **The Oldtimers' Grapevine** and was its most liberal financial contributor.

**Left to continue the family witness** is Alpha Penn Arnold, his wife for 66 years, a Disciples of Christ minister and retired public school teacher; and many friends.

♥**William T. Gible, Jacksonville, FL, July 30, 1999**

Resident in NBA's Cypress Village Retirement Community.

Retired President of the National Benevolent Association following pastoral Services in Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma. Among congregations served in Missouri was First Christian Church of Jefferson City.

During his tenure as the NBA chief executive officer, there was expansion in facilities and services; emphasis on affirmative action in employment; and adoption of inclusiveness in policy formation, board representation, and in availability of services.

♥**Pamela A. Green, D.J., Chicago, IL, July 10, 1999**—life long member of Park Manor Christian Church

Formal preparation: Hampton Institute, (VA); Governors State University; University of Houston Law School. A Masters Degree in Health Administration led to a law degree with specialization in health related law. Services continued as staff in the States Attorney's Office and private practice specializing on workers' compensation, real estate and domestic relations.

**Her legacy will be advanced** through Elsie Green, mother; two brothers. William and Irvin, their spouses, and many distant relatives and friends.

# "THANKS A MILLION!"

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# Coles Leave for California as Successor is Installed

**Kansas City, MO-** King David Cole, retired Pastor of Swope Parkway United Christian Church and his wife, Violaruth, moved to Chatsworth, Calif from Kansas City, MO in late June 1999.

Dr. Cole retired in 1997 after serving the Swope Parkway United congregation for 27 years. He was elected to be the moderator for the General Assembly of the denomination in 1992 during a critical time in its organizational history.

Dr. Cole participated in one last, official event at Swope Parkway

United Christian Church before their westward move on June 27. He was among the presenters involved in the installation of The Rev. Dr. Margaret Roberts to succeed him as Senior Minister at Swope Parkway. Dr. Cole made a Statement of Affirmation.

Members of the Cole family who reside in Metro Los Angeles, CA will be among the many friends who will provide them with another expanding support community.

Concerned friends can contact K. David and Violaruth) at 9512 Oakridge Place Chatsworth, Calif 91311.



Dr. Roberts kneels in humble commitment to serve, as ministers convey blessings of confirmation by the laying on of hands. Metro KC Regional Pastor Paul Diehl was directing proceedings. Pastor Roberts recently received the Doctor Ministry Degree from the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.

NETWORKING CHURCH-RELATED SENIOR  
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# THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Volume IX Issue 5

September - October 1999

Raymore, Missouri

### Special points of interest:

- Editor shares personal experiences which occurred in recent 150th Anniversary of the national gathering of Disciples of Christ
- Thoughts on Christian senior citizens meeting new Millennium opportunities
- Noting a few of the many "For Whom the Bell tolls."

## AN OLDTIMER'S "REPORT" ON THE 1999 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, by W. K. Fox, Sr, Editor

Opening Night Moderator, Michael Mooty of Fort Worth, TX, inspired more than 6,000 representatives of the church packing the Convention Center hall when he said "We've come a long way since that first gathering of 156 Disciples in Cincinnati 150 years ago." Mooty brought a clear and understandable message about a long and rigorous learning experience the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has had all the way.

From one OLDTIMER'S view point, however, there is one aspect of that 150 year journey which merits special mention. It is an aspect which lingers indelibly in my memory as an African American teenager who traveled several times by car, bus and train from the North to the South through cities like Cincinnati, OH or Louisville, KY.

These were points on the Mason-Dixon Line which



THE YOUTH' STRIKING PANTOMIME of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of *The Last Supper* on the General Assembly's Saturday night plenary was deeply moving. (Photo from Office of Communication, Disciples of Christ, Website)

were still being impacted by the slave culture and social practices which existed in the mid-nineteenth century.

Traveling South from the North on a Greyhound bus through a city like Cincinnati, OH or a Louisville, KY meant moving from any seat in the front or middle to a seat as far back as possible. If on a train, it meant moving quickly to a seat with the other black passengers in the racially segregated coach just behind the en-

gine. Here, if prepared, you could sit with your home made cheese and chicken sandwiches, and absorb the smoke and ashes flying back from the open ended, coal fed locomotive.

If in an automobile, it meant making sure to stop and meet your stomach and personal hygiene needs at a restaurant, or in a gasoline station located in places like Cincinnati or Louisville. It was a one hundred per-

(Continued on page 2)

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## "The church just has two jobs. First tell everybody to come and second, let God take care of the quality control." - Fred Craddock

*(Continued from page 1)*

cent guarantee that as you traveled further South the only accommodations available would be those provided by personal friends or family; found somewhere in the great out-of-doors; or traditional facilities endured elsewhere which were most always "separate and never equal."

### "Over in the Promised Land!"

On the other hand, when you traveled from the South towards the North through cities like Cincinnati, OH or Louisville, KY, it meant crossing "The Line" into "Freedom Land." It meant that, irregardless of color or race, you could choose and use whatever public and other accommodations and services you could find. Theoretically, you were "Free At Last."

Therefore, from an OLDTIMER'S point of view attending the 1999 General Assembly, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering in Cincinnati really meant that "We have come a mighty long ways" from the era of racial ethnic relations which existed during the operation of The Mason-Dixon Line. We stayed in a major hotel at the going rate, and shopped for food and other items for the best price.

Many representatives attending were privileged to see The National Benevolent Association exhibit area. It featured an epic-making display on the growth and development of the racial ethnic minority (i. e. Asian American, Hispanic, African American) groups within the Church. The

production is creatively arranged, and based upon excellent research and documentation. It should be explored by every concerned member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

At various points during the general sessions, as well as the luncheon and dinner events sponsored by church units and organizations, the programming dramatized the fact that we are essentially and biblically One Church of the Pentecost embracing all people, colors and races.

### Updated Personal Testimony

But equally important, my wife and I, as two African American OLDTIMERS attending the 1999 General Assembly, had personal experiences which documented this fact. We secured a wheel chair in order to conserve the body, mind, and limb.

Whenever we came anywhere near a door there was always one or more persons with varied skin color and race who yelled: "Wait a minute, let me open the doors for you!" Others said, "Just a minute, we'll get the door, we're sure glad you're here!" Few stopped to see who we really were, or note the important names we thought were on our name tags! They just wanted to help us get through those doors, into those elevators, or down those steps.

Our positive experiences continued on Sunday morning in the nearby 210 year old Covenant-First Presbyterian Church. As we arrived 45 minutes before Dr. Fred Craddock was to preach in that ancient sanctu-

ary, we slowly inched our way up the front steps and forward toward the packed worship center. A hoard of unhappy, too late worshippers squeezed by us on their way out. I felt we were on a fruitless endeavor, when just as we slipped inside the doorway I felt a soft touch on the shoulder by a smiling lady. She said, "Please come this way a few steps, I've saved two seats for you."

She was a school teacher from South Carolina who, with a friend, was giving us two seats beside her husband. Physical limitations dictated that he remain. He quietly shared the warmth of sincere and ongoing Christian Southern hospitality. As Moderator Mooty declared, "We have come a long way on our 150 year journey."

### A Fred Craddock Summation

The Fred Craddock's sermon provided the "bottom line" for that day as well as for the General Assembly. In accordance with Jesus' story recorded in Matthew 22:1-10 about the King who ordered his servants to go into the highways and byways to invite everybody ("both bad and good") to come to "The Marriage Feast" for his son, Craddock declared **'The Church really has only two things to do in the world. The first, is to tell everybody! The second is to let God deal with quality control!'**



## Former headquarters of the Christian Church on Eastside renovated into 79 units for senior citizens

Reprinted From *THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR*, p. C3 -October 8, 1999- by Sally Falk Nancrede, Staff Writer

For the first time in years, the mailman will stop at the old Missions Building, 222 S. Downey Ave. (Indianapolis, IN)

New, affordable apartments for seniors have been carved out of the old Missions Building which served as the international headquarters of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for more than 60 years. In 1995, the church moved its headquarters from Irvington to Downtown (Indianapolis), leaving the 121,000-square-foot landmark empty...

"The building had the highest volume of mail for any one building in the Indianapolis area for a number of years. It actually had its own post office, it had so much mail," said Paul C. Diebold, president of the Irvington Historical Society.

The society and the Irvington Community Council were influential in keeping the five connected buildings from being razed.

Diebold praised the addition of the new housing on Indianapolis Eastside.

"There's really not quality senior housing in Irvington, or not much of it, and certainly not any rehabilitated or restored housing of that kind in a historic building," Diebold said.

Partners in the \$6.5 million housing project included the Christian Church, Indiana Black Expo Economic Development Corp. And the Mansur Group.

Van Rooy Properties of Indianapolis is managing the apartments.

The project was funded through the sale of low-income housing tax credits, historic tax credits, funds from the city and a conventional loan.

The Indiana Housing Finance authority awarded nearly \$4 million in low-income housing tax credits to the project. It is also the first time that historic tax credits were used in Irvington.

"It is significant because the Irvington area is the largest National Register district in Marion County, Diebold said. "We're hoping it sets a precedent for other historic buildings that need rehabilitation."

The building is considered architecturally and culturally significant. The oldest wing is the Bona Thompson Library, built in 1903 as Butler University's library when the university was in Irvington. The library will be restored as the Bona Thomp-



**\$6.5 MILLION PROJECT** – The renovated Missions Building which opened the week of October 1 for seniors who are on restricted incomes.

Star Staff Photo/ Gary Moore

son Center art museum.

Jennifer L. Ehrgott, a member of the Irvington Community Council, praised the restoration for maintaining the landmark's atmosphere as a school.

As for the apartments, "Irvington, as a community, has to hope for the best." Ehrgott said "The verdict's out on how it will fly and how it will affect the neighbors."



# THE (Y2K) CHALLENGE AND SENIOR DISCIPLES - by O. T. Reynard



**P**inch yourself hard and make doubly sure you are alive! We senior citizens are gliding over the edge of 1999 into the year, 2000 A. D.! We are about to be embraced by the life changing powers of the Millennium! Over the recent past, this has been a message conveyed by many who explain the details of promised confusion from the computer bug bite, or predict the ultimate outcomes of biblical interpretation.

Once upon a time the greatest challenge was to become old enough to enter school; to put on lip stick and powder the nose; to wear long pants and use tobacco; to drive a car; to get a job and that first pay check; to have a first date and to marry. Today as senior citizens we realize that in spite of every thing both negative and positive to date, we've survived the rigors and wonders of the twentieth century!

There is a Y2K toolkit which we senior citizens of Christian faith need when we flip over the calendar to 2000 A. D. There must be the tool of trust in knowledgeable computer experts who have readied data systems to act normally in our favor. Expect social security and pension checks to be distributed on schedule, banks to operate normally, and investment results correctly registered. If you are wired with a personal computer, you will probably be able to do as much with it when Y2K comes as you ever did before. Our twentieth century experience has also taught us to expect that some human error will occur and short term minimum readjustments may be necessary. So cool it. Keep the faith.

Another tool in Y2K toolkit for senior citizens of Christian faith when the bells in Time Square New York ring the New Year in, is the tool of open-

ness to achieving improved life styles. Within the bounds of physical limitations and economic resources, faith based seniors will widen and diversify human relationships. They will avoid a necessity to hunker down in underground shelters, and surround themselves by stockpiles of foodstuffs and defensive weapons. They will continue their pursuit of the full and enriched life which was lived and taught by Jesus, the Christ.

The Apostle Paul's comments in Philippians 4:5-9 remind us that our greatest need in the new Millennium will not be knowledge, but wisdom. As we glide toward 2000 AD we are submerged in electronic flood of knowledge. It comes at us with blinding speed and from all directions. If you sit at a computer keyboard you go online and put anything in and click "go" and you are amazed at the thousands of bits of knowledge that are at your finger tips. It takes real wisdom to select what you really need on any particular subject.

Every senior citizen of Christian faith needs to keep the Wisdom tool close at hand in the Y2K toolkit. The Wisdom tool can be fashioned out of your enriched pool of life experience. As stories about "The End of the World, Y2K insanity! Apocalypse Now!.." and the search for guides to Millennium Madness engulf many, the senior citizen of Christian faith must reach for that Wisdom tool.

Paul's words come to us today as they came many years ago to "the saints in Christ Jesus who were at Philippi... "Rejoice in the Lord always... The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God which passes all un-

derstanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The new Millennium will need increased emphasis on a renewed reverence for all life, peace, reconciliation, and justice. These are things which lay deep within the mind and teaching of Jesus.

The new Millennium will need a multiplication of many small examples of the preservation and enrichment of life; the smothering and extinction of violence; the raising and expansion of quality living for all humankind. As senior "saints in Christ Jesus" our many years of experience have helped us know these things to be true.

Wisdom born out of religious experience is undergirded by scientific studies which strengthen our belief that personal and intercessory prayer will be valued in 2000 AD and beyond.

Wisdom born out of religious experience and faith is undergirded by scientific probes into the nature and origin of life will strengthen our belief in practices in 2000 AD which preserve the primary elements of human life and its maintenance.

Wisdom born out of religious experience will uphold our hope that in 2000 AD while material wealth comes to growing numbers, there will also be growth in true community. There will be need for communities which flourish on a recognition of larger amounts of ethical morality, sound character, and spiritual values which operate openly in personal and social living.

Therefore in the Millennium ahead us "whatever is true... honorable... thoughts, or programs related to the mindset and teachings of Jesus, "think about these things." -Philippians 4:8-



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:



♥**LAWRENCE W. BASH, Kansas City, MO-**, whose homegoing was July 22, 1999 had retired October 1, 1978 after early pastorates in Iowa and Nebraska; six years St. Joseph, MO; eleven years at the University Christian Church in Austin, TX; and 19 years as the senior minister at the Country Club Christian Church, Kansas City, MO. He started as a pianist and youth worker in the Thomas Mission.

Many remember his cooperation with the National Benevolent Association in the establishment of Foxwood Springs a generation ago and his concern for

high quality retirement living communities in general.

He was selected as a director on boards like the General Board of the Disciples of Christ, Christian Board of Publication, and NBA itself. Dr. Bash had experience as a state and area organizational administrator in youth work and Christian education, and as well as a dynamic leader and pastor of several well respected congregations. But his demeanor was quiet and humble.

Leatha Bash, his wife of 64 years, walked by him faithfully in support as

he received a liberal arts and theological education at Drake University, Des Moines, IA, with additional preparation in places like the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, and the Pacific School of Religion. He earned membership in the the Phi Beta Kappa Scholastic Society

Joining Mrs. Bash as survivors are daughter and son-in-law, Jeroldene Bash Trammell and Leon Trammell of Kansas City and Wichita; and granddaughters, Kristen Taylor of New York City; Alisa Taylor Miller and husband, Craig of Chicago, IL



♥**SAMUEL ROSS GRIFFIN, Tulsa, OK-**, homegoing September 2, 1999 in Saginaw, MI, returned to his home church, the Pine Street Christian Church in Tulsa for memorial services. Charles Webb, JR., Director of Black Ministries for the General Church of the Disciples of Christ and a former pastor of the Pine Street congregation delivered the eulogy.

Pastor Griffin had served Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations in Tulsa, Muskogee and Okmulgee, OK for seventeen years before accepting a call in 1978 to serve as the Senior Minister for the First Christian

Disciples of Christ Church in Saginaw. He led the congregation in a racially inclusive ministry and services to a community in racial and cultural transition

The memorial service reflected the longstanding friendship of several members of the 1946 high school 1946 graduating class at Booker T. Washington High School. After 53 years, they were present as honorary pallbearers and flowerbearers.

Griffin's former associates in radio broadcasting served as pallbearers

The legacy of Pastor Griffin will be cherished by three sons, and three daughters; four grandchildren; five brothers; four sisters; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



♥**LORENCE M. WATKINS, Wauseon, OH-** the 102 year old mother of Harold Watkins, retired and past president of the Board of Church Extension of the Disciples of Christ, was memorialized during a graveside service held July 26, 1999 in Wauseon.



♥**JAMES TINSLEY SMITH, SR.-Indianapolis, IN-**, native of Maceo, KY, was an eighty-six year old widower, expired October 23, 1999. The Indiana University national long distance track star, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1938, before launching a successful 40 year career as a business man.

Then In the twilight of life, he re-

sponded to a call to Christian ministry. He was in his 15th. year at the Light of the World Christian Church. as the senior associate pastor to Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, JR, the senior minister.

Dr. Smith performed a ministry of visiting the sick and injured in hospitals and nursing homes, and teaching a weekly foundational bible study course

at Light of the World. Meantime, he secured a master of divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in 1983, and a doctorate degree of ministry last year from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH at the age of 85.

Bishop Benjamin, who delivered the eulogy, said "He was the most consistently loving and compassionate man" he had ever known.



♥**ROSAL BEDELIA ELAINE WASHINGTON, Oakland, CA-**, a native of Bloomington, IL went quietly to her final resting place October 3, 1999. Her union in marriage to Peter C. Washington, the pioneer president of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX, who preceded her in death. The Memorial Service was held October 8, 1999 in Mills Grove Christian Church

She was known as "Mother Washington," the teacher, librarian, singer, volunteer and social activist. After marriage to P. C. Washington in Bloomington, IL and his graduation from Eureka College, she helped her husband by singing and playing the piano for churches he served in Hannibal and Fulton (MO)..

When her husband was called from high school administration and coaching to Hawkins, TX to become the second president of Jarvis Christian

College, she launched on her role as the "First Lady" of the campus.

She was "Mother Washington" for her young family and many Jarvis students. She aided the Jarvis Choir in its performances; was a founding member of the campus Delta Sigma Theta sorority chapter; and worked for the improvement of race relations in the Hawkins area.

The family's move to the West provided opportunity to increase her community involvement. She was active in the Eastern Star and became an Illustrious Commandress.

While a homemaker and helper in the congregations served by her husband, she was employed as a librarian in the University of California in Berkeley.

The Rosae/ Peter Washington legacy will go forward through her three chil-

dren, daughter, Marcella W. Hill of Washington, D. C., a retired Ph. D. in mathematics; daughter, Rowena Washington, a retired sociologist of Oakland, CA, and son, P. C. Washington, JR., of Daly City, CA.; a daughter-in-law and a daughter "in spirit;" four grandchildren; two granddaughters-in-law; four great granddaughters; two great grandsons and nine nephews and nieces.



♥**JOHN CAVE, JR, Bath, South Carolina-** a 65 year old native of Allendale, SC departed April 3, 1999 as a faithful deacon in the church, honorably discharged veteran in the United States Airforce; with a degree in Business Administration Degree. Marriage to Eliza Husser in 1952, was blessed with a daughter, Sanquinnett. Wife Eliza Cave and daughter are now joined by a sister, Ruth Walker and many immediate kin and friends in mourning his quiet but rewardomg life.



♥**FLO L. PALSEY SUMMERS KALLENBACH, Raymore, MO-** 93 years old, received release from lingering illness October 4, 1999 while a patient in the Health Center of Foxwood Springs Retirement Living facility. She had been a constructive contributor to the enrichment of life in that community of senior citizens for the past eighteen years. Associate Minister Janet Chapman, of

Raymore Christian Church led a Celebration of Life Service October 8, 1999 at the Raymore Church.

The Service highlighted Flo Kallenbach as the University Missouri graduate who rendered 35 years of instruction as a teacher of English and journalism in the Missouri public school system. It underscored her more than 50 years of Christian dedication and witness as a Sunday school teacher

who was involved in local and regional church activities.

While teaching, she produced five national award winning students. Her own writings include poems, articles, and two books. One entitled "Call Me Tillie" was on her childhood and promoted donations to *The Fellowship of John*. The other was a devotional collection project developed for a family reunion on her 80th. Birthday.



♥**EUNICE LEE STAMPS NELSON- Dallas, TX-** the 80 year old native of Learned, MS and mother of Sebetha Jenkins Sebetha Jenkins, who is President of Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX, died August 24, 1999 in a local infirmary. A Memorial Celebration was held Saturday, August 28 at the Greater Northside Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, MS.

Mrs. Nelson was a teacher and school administrator in the Mississippi public school system for nearly 40 years.

She was an alumnus of Jackson State University, Jackson, MS and Indiana University, Bloomington, IN and member of major professional education associations such as the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Classroom Teachers.

One of her sisters, Effie S. Burford of Indianapolis, IN, is a retired romance-language teacher and a Disciples of Christ minister; the other sister, Hazel Moore of New Orleans, LA, is a leading lay leader in the United Church of Christ and a retired social scientist.

Other survivors include three daughters, two brothers, eight grandchildren and two great great grandchildren, one uncle, many nieces and cousins.

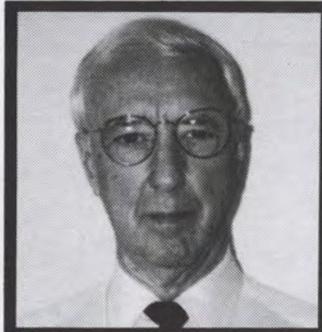
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*(THE LISTING WILL CONTINUE IN THE NEXT ISSUE.)*

## LIKENESS OF SOME FOR WHOM BELL TOLLED



Rosae Washington- 10/3/99



Lee R. Settles- 10/7/99



Lawrence Bash- 7/22/99



Flo S. Kallenbach- 10/4/99

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**LOOK FOR MORE HOMEGOING BIOS IN NEXT ISSUE**


♥**AMANDA MAY SCOTT LINDSEY**- Indianapolis, IN- a native of Mounds in Southern Illinois, had her homegoing June 4, 1999. She united with George Eli Lindsey October 13, 1936 and brought forth a family of two daughters, Loretta McIntosh and May Frances; and two sons, George E. and Larry Joe who preceded her in death. Amanda Lindsey was a humble but faithful lay worker in the church who devoted many years to working with the youth of the church in plays, choirs, dinner programs and various forms of Christian fellowship. She was a member of the Paramount Community Church of Indianapolis.



**MARGARET R. CHEW RICHARDSON**, Lebanon, IN-, the 88 year old mother of Peggy Powell

had her homegoing August 26, 1999 with memorial services held at Central Christian Church, August 28. Peggy Powell is the wife of Jim Powell, President of the Board of Church Extension. She was a graduate of Northwestern University who had taught English, Latin, and French. Survivors include husband, the Rev. Ralph H. Richardson, three children, nine grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.



♥**LEE R. SETTLES**, Raymore, MO-81, whose homegoing was October 7, 1999. He was born in Iola, KS. and served in the US Navy during World War II. The retired owner and operator of Graphic Laboratory Printing Company for 10 years and later worked as a printer at General Services Admini-

stration, was a quiet and supportive member of the Raymore Christian Church and Foxwood Springs Retirement Community for 18 years. While in Foxwood, he joined Irene, his wife of 60 years, to publish, and distribute the FOX TALES newsletter for 7 years.

The Settles' memory continues through his wife, Irene L. Settles, of the Foxwood Retirement Living Center; daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Sam Shaw, Homossassa, FL, and Janet and Dean Campbell, Kansas City, MO; son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Judy Settles, Warsaw, MO; sisters, Dorothy Stumbo, Lawrence, KS, and Geneva Wennett, Capron, OK; brother, Ralph Settles, Long Beach, CA; eight grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

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# THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

Volume IX Issue 6

November - December 1999

Raymore, Missouri



## OLDTIMERS' SAYS "THANK YOU" AND "SEASON'S GREETINGS" AS WE ENTER THE NEW MILLENNIUM

**T**HE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE is beginning its tenth year of bimonthly newsletter service to church related senior citizens.

Reflection upon its original mission and the extent to which it is being fulfilled brings to mind examples of many who have given support.

Take a look at-

### **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (PAST AND PRESENT):**

**Sere S. Myers**, Kansas City, MO- (the 101 year old retired pastor, entrepreneur, church leader)- The founding and current president of the Board of Directors

**Velva Dreese**, Raymore, MO- (Retired regional and general church staff)- *Deceased*- The Founding Vice-President of the Board of Directors ("*The Angel who Touched Others*").

**Amy Hohman**, (Retired

general church staff)- Louisville, KY- A founding member of the Board of Directors

**George Lakes**, (retired pastor, church leader)- Kansas City, MO- *Deceased*- The Founding Secretary of the Board of Directors

**Cornelius W. Arnold**, (retired pastor, entrepreneur, church leader)- Los Angeles, CA- *Deceased*- A founding member of the Board of Directors and most consistent financial contributor to the operation of the Newsletter (*Advocate for a full-scale production of THE OLDTIMERS'*)

**Flo Kallenbach**, (teacher, writer, church leader)- Raymore, MO- *Deceased*- A founding member of the Board; vice-president; provided financial undergirding for the incorporation as a non-profit organization.

**Ernest J. Newborn, Sr.**, (retired pastor, regional and general church staff/leader)- Indianapolis, IN. A founding member of the Board currently serving

as Associate Editor; most consistent promotional agent and contributor of pertinent church news **Harvey Thomas**, (retired accountant, lay regional and general church leader)- Chicago, IL- A founding member of the Board of Directors- Supportive.

**Reubena M. S. Fox**, (retired public school teacher, lay church leader)- Raymore, MO- A founding member of the Board of Directors rendering background support to the Editor.

**Ruth Hobbs**, (retired public school teacher, lay regional and general church leader,)- Jackson, MS- A founding member of the Board of Directors. Frequent contributor to OLDTIMERS'.

**Rolland Huff**, (retired pastor, regional and general church staff/leader), Jacksonville, FL, A founding member of the Board of Directors- Supportive.

(Continued on Page 2)



## OLDTIMERS' REVEALS SENIOR'S UNMET COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS

### THANKS- (From Page 1)

**Kitty Austin**, (retired lay regional and general church staff), Indianapolis, IN. A founding member of the Board of Directors- Supportive **Sybel Thomas**, (retired accountant, lay regional and general church leader)- Chicago, IL- Recently elected to the Board of Directors; vice-president of the Board of Directors

**Linda McKnight**, (practicing accountant, lay general church staff)- St. Louis, MO. Recently elected to the Board of Directors; secretary/ treasurer of the Board.

### RELATED PERSONALITIES:

**William K. Fox, JR-** (son of the Editor, and practicing electrician, and computer technician)- Vancouver, WA- Convinced his father that he should buy a computer about 15 plus years ago. Originally, along with wife, **Judy Fox**, served as consultant to the Editor when he stumbled into production difficulties.

**Augusta Edythe Grant**, retired social worker, college professor, and volunteer proof-reader- Raymore, MO.

### EARLY FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS/READERS:

**John Long, Claremont, CA - (Deceased)-** retired president of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS upon its closure; regional and general church leader **William E. Starn, - (Deceased)-** retired pastor, district, regional, general church leader, Columbia, MO **Lucille Coward**, retired social



agency staff, faithful lay church worker, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Robert L. Jordan, (Deceased)** retired pastor; regional, general church leader- Detroit, MI

**Louise Moseley**, retired religious journalist, communicator, general church staff- Columbia, MO

**Raymond E. Brown**, retired pastor, general administrative church staff/ leader- Indianapolis, IN

**Verlesta Hicks**, retired mathematician, lay, general church leader- Dayton, OH

**Lorenzo J. Evans**, retired pastor, military chaplain, general administrative church staff/leader- Indianapolis, IN

**Enoch W. Henry, JR.**, retired pastor, regional, general administrative church staff/leader- Los Angeles, CA/Palestine, TX

**Walter/Sue Cardwell**, retired missionaries to Africa; ministers; college professors; linguists; general church staff; higher education consultants, Indianapolis, IN

**Edward L. Griffin**, retired pastor, public school administrator, regional, general church leader-

Clarksdale, MS/Flint, MI

**Samuel W. Hylton, JR**, retired pastor, regional, general church leader- St. Louis, MO

**John Compton/Lucile (Deceased)**, retired pastor and school teacher, regional, general administrative staff/leader- Cincinnati, OH

**Bess R. Terry**, retired social administrator, teacher, regional, general church lay leader- New York, NY

**Mildred L. Webb**, retired social agency administrator, faithful church lay leader, (Chicago, IL/ Indianapolis, IN)

**Gertude Dimke**, retired regional, general administrative church staff- Indianapolis, IN

**A.Dale/Betty (Deceased) Fiers**, retired pastor, regional, general administrative church staff/leader, Jacksonville, FL

**Ozark Range, Sr.**, retired pastor, regional, general administrative church staff, Indianapolis, IN/ Greenwood, MS

**Kenneth/Wanda Teagarden**, retired pastor, regional, general administrative church staff/leader- Fort Worth, TX

**Lola B. Greer**, retired public school teacher, lay regional, general church leader- Oklahoma City, OK

**Oscar Haynes**, retired journalist, business man, lay regional, general church leader- Washington, D. C.

**Della M. January**, retired teacher, lay regional, general church leader- Springfield, OH

**Lambrini Steriogiopol**, retired General general church staff, Athens, Greece

**Verlesta Hicks**, retired mathematician; **Dorothy Wilbert**, retired school teacher, Dayton, OH

(Continued on Page 8)

## Ministerial Supply and "The Chicago Story" by O. T. Reynard

A reader of the May-June issue of *THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE* was spurred into action when he read the references to a continuing "Shortage of African American Disciple Ministers". He felt that there had been an oversight on the contribution "smaller and medium sized congregations" were making in the recruitment and supply of ministers. The following are excerpts from a letter sent to the editor:

*In your last GRAPEVINE you mentioned the mega congregations. (in relationship to ministerial recruitment) Well! You are letting the smaller congregations off the hook. They will be saying, "if we were only larger, we would be doing more. However, we aren't so we will leave that to the "Rays of Hope," Mississippi Boulevards," and "Lights of the World" to do."*

*You should have mentioned "Park Manor Christian Church." Now that is a story! They have had not only young men and women straight out of high school-college-seminary, but also several second career folks. -Floyd Knight, Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Chicago Heights, IL-*

Pastor Knight is right. The story of Discipleship across racial ethnic lines in Metro Chicago as a whole is nothing like anything else within that Region or the general church. This is especially true in relationship to the recruitment, development and distribution of African American Disciple clergy within Metro Chicago and other aspects of the Church.

Historically the Disciples of Christ story in Chicago for more than a half century or more was fashioned by clergy/scholars related to the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, and its linkage with, Disciples Divinity House and the University Christian Church. This group of Disciples represented a significant but rarefied Christian community oriented toward academia. It existed along side the life and mission of Disciples in the congregations. The work of these churches was guided by dedicated pastors and district leaders.

At the dawn of a new millennium, if we are to understand how African American congregations have come to comprise a major portion of the Disciples of Christ witness and leadership in Chicago, we must take a more comprehensive look. Time and space permitting, the view would take into account the unfolding demographic factors that were occurring in metropolitan areas like Chicago. It would also include happenings within the predominantly African American Disciple congregations which often occurred quietly, and unnoticed along side life in the predominantly white Disciple congregations.

Suffice it here to say, that seeds that brought the growth of the African American witness within Chicago Disciples of Christ were planted in the early twentieth century by church mission

dollars invested in the recruitment and training of Black clergymen, several from Jamaica. These ministers reached out to African Americans. Many had migrated from the South to the greener socio-economic pastures of the metro centers in the North like Chicago. Some were transfer members from Disciple congregations or other free church tradition bodies in the South. Still others were converted to the "Disciple Plea" and the biblical foundations of the Campbellite movement.

This phase of the Disciple story in Chicago was featured by many courageous senior ministers, now deceased. Among the most notable were Jamaicans **Richard E. Davis** (Indiana Ave/Park Manor Christian Churches), **Robert E. La Touche** (Southside/Parkway Garden Christian Churches); **Frank Reid** (Jackson Boulevard Christian Church); and African American **Charles E. Webb, Sr.** (Park Manor Christian Church). The tenure of each proved to be foundational ministries.

Within recent the last half century, the greatest contribution to the recruitment and supply Disciples of Christ ministers has been made by competent, faithfully committed lay church members of congregations like Park Manor, Parkway Gardens, and Jackson Boulevard..

During this period the laity in a congregation like Park Manor, maintained a Junior Church with assigned staff; organized one or more youth choirs and fellowship groups; and integrated children and youth concerns into the life of the congregation. A task group maintained year-round contact and communication with youth from the congregation enrolled in various colleges throughout the nation. A Higher Education Scholarship Fund made annual grants to worthy and needy students attending these colleges. An Alumni Group of students from Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX was lodged in the congregation. They recruited students, and sets annual scholarship fund goals. This pattern of activities continue today.

Thus, the existence of this progressive religious operational climate motivated members of the congregation to seriously consider preparation for Christian ministry. Among the early "Clergy Recruits" was the late **Julia Flowers** (Southside Christian/Park Manor) who served briefly as a national director of Christian women's work. Later, **Thomas Griffin** (deceased), then a recent Jarvis Christian College graduate (deceased), served as director of Youth Work under Senior Minister R. H. Davis at Indiana Ave CC (now Park Manor) and answered the "Call."

*Continued on Page 4)*

## “Second Career Ministries” New Key in “Chicago Story”

### *THE CHICAGO STORY – (Continued from Page 3)*

Following completion of seminary he received specialized pastoral assignments and general church staff directorships.

Other “Clergy Recruits” are in contemporary ministry like **Claudia Highbaugh** (Park Manor), Chaplain at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MASS; **John Foulkes** (Parkway Gardens), Associate General Minister and President, Office of the GMP of the General Church, and **Charles E. Webb, JR.**, (Park Manor) Director of Black Ministries, in the denomination’s Division of Homeland Ministries, both in Indianapolis, IN.

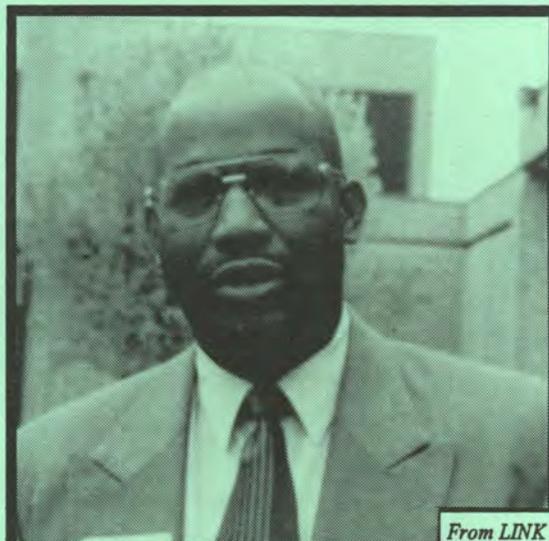
**James I. Demus III**, the current senior minister at Park Manor Christian Church, is a “Timothy” from the University Christian Church. When this congregation adopted a transformation in the style and mission guided mainly by the retired senior pastor, Harvey Lord, Demus became involved as a young leader. The University Church’s desire to meet newly emerging needs of the community, including the encouragement of racial diversity in its membership appealed to Demus. As a result he was encouraged to become committed and prepared for ministry in the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

Currently, the associate minister at Park Manor Church, **Montee Akers, JR.**, received motivation toward ministry while a youth at Park Manor. He committed to the ministry; pursued in-service seminary preparation; and recently moved from a bivocational employment to full-time ministerial service.

The story of second career members of the Park Manor congregation who have recently relinquished secular careers following commitment to Christian ministry is outstanding. Each counted the cost in domestic responsibilities and finance; and chose a path of seminary preparation and fulfillment of Regional Church Ministry Commission requirements before accepting formal calls to professional church service.

One, **Phillip Conyers**, who provided brief interim services for the congregation while completing his seminary work, was recently called to serve First Christian Church in Butler, PA. Another, **Larry Jackson**, who followed a career in the administration of health services for several years, is currently working on a seminary degree while being employed by Park Manor to work with youth and young adults.

Recently three Disciples of Christ congregations within Metro Chicago which had predominantly white memberships, elected African American Disciples as senior ministers. One, **Howard**



*From LINK*

**Irvin Green, Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Maywood, IL – A successful “Second Career Pastor”**

**Kennon**, for several years engaged in a communications career, member of Park Manor, and skilled in the direction of musical groups; relinquished secular employment; completed seminary preparation; and was recently called to serve as senior pastor for the United Christian Church of Country Club Hill

Another, **Irvin Green**, for many years employed in aspects of communications and real estate; nurtured from youth as a member of Park Manor Christian Church where he served in several lay leadership capacities; relinquished secular employment; successfully completed seminary preparation; and was called to serve as senior pastor for the First Christian Church of Maywood, IL. Pastor Green’s wife, Betty, is also pursuing a seminary degree in preparation for full-time Christian service.

Finally, **Floyd Knight**, is an example of a seminary student who once served as the Minister for the Youth Church at Park Manor. He was pursuing a Ph. D. graduate degree in biblical studies at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. Pastor Knight was recently called to serve as senior minister for the First Christian Church, Chicago Heights, IL

“The Chicago Story” may surface ideas which would merit review as the church considers “The Shortage of Ministry Among African American Disciples of Christ” and other racial ethnic minorities.

## BISHOP T. GARRETT BENJAMIN MARKS HISTORIC 30TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT LWCC

### TALENTED SENIOR PASTOR GUIDES "30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE" AT LIGHT OF WORLD CHURCH-1969-99

Indianapolis, IN- Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, senior pastor of Light of the World Christian Church, celebrated 30 years of service October 9-17, 1999. The theme of the 30th Anniversary celebration was "A Blessed Man of God."

This joyous occasion included several events including a Community Breakfast with tributes from state and local government officials along with community and religious leaders of the city; a black tie gala extravaganza at the Indianapolis Arts Center and ended with a musical celebration at Light of the World Christian Church.

Bishop Benjamin is also the Presiding Prelate of the Christian Ecumenical Christian Fellowship which he founded in 1996.

Beginning in January, 2000, Bishop Benjamin will be a contributing columnist for the magazine, *Gospel Today*. He also has a chapter in the book, *From A Father's Heart*, by Dan Reiland and published by Thomas Nelson Publishers. This book is a collection of loving letters from many of America's best-known Christian fathers such as Franklin Graham, John C. Maxwell, and Jack Hayford.



**Pictured above is Bishop Benjamin and his lovely wife, Lady Beverly and their three sons: Thomas Benjamin, III, Channing Benjamin, and Christopher Benjamin. Pastor Benjamin has been in ministry 33 years and married 32 years. Family is something the Benjamins treasure. Mrs. Benjamin and her sons are active in church.**

**\*The programmatic emphasis at Light of the World** is directed toward providing holistic services to meet spiritual needs from "The Cradle to the Grave."

**\*Bible-based programs** with staff assignments are pointed toward all age levels; babies through seniors

**\*The Gospel is proclaimed** through traditional preaching; ongoing evangelistic effort; and every legitimate and available means for mass communication.

**\*A core membership** of more than 3000 persons is served; thousands reached via its electronic ministries.

**\*Many called into Ministry;** 13 in full-time service in USA; 30 in pre-seminarian preparation overseas.

**\*LWCC OWNS 200 burial sites in a Memorial Garden** located in Crown Hill Cemetery of Indianapolis.

**\*LWCC OWNS 36 + acres** on a high elevation in the city where plans are underway to develop a spiritual campus into a multimillion dollar "A City On a Hill."

**\*Bishop Thos Garrett Benjamin, Jr. oversees** a national Christian Ecumenical Covenant Fellowship encompassing lay persons and clergy.

**\*Pastor Benjamin is Co-Founder and President of the Celebration of Hope, Inc.** Committed to "Bridge Building" by keeping lines of communication open between denominations and races.

**\*Light of the World Christian Church** continues to be faithful to the Bible; Disciples of Christ tradition; and expand and update on the historical role it has held in the general church scene from its inception.

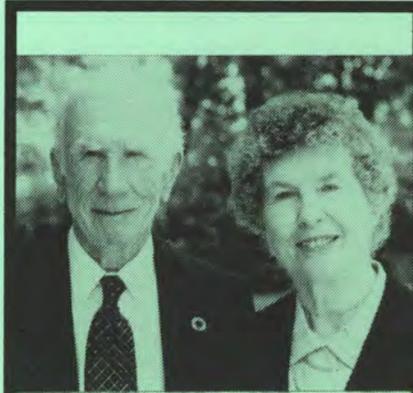
*-A Summary Notation-WKF,Sr-*

## ANOTHER "RETIREMENT" AND ANNIVERSARY

### IN INDIANA:

**Indianapolis, IN-** According to LINK, "A Publication for Alumni and Friends" related to Christian Theological Seminary, "Dr. Sue Webb Cardwell retired in June of 1999 from her position as Director of Testing at Christian Theological Seminary.

She came to the seminary in 1962 as psychometrist and joined the faculty as Professor of Psychology and Counseling in 1979. She retired in 1988 and at that time was granted Emerita status."



From LINK

Sue Cardwell with her husband for 62 years, Dr. Walter Cardwell. Both were specialty missionaries in the Congo for many years.

### IN TEXAS:

**Palestine, TX-** Vernon Jackson recently celebrated his Twenty Sixth Pastoral Anniversary at the New Fellowship Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Senior Pastor Jackson has continued to guide the congregation in its strategic Christian mission. He has served as president of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship. Leadership within the New Fellowship congregation stimulated interest in starting a liberal arts college to serve African Americans before the establishment of Jarvis College

## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL:

### ♥SOCIAL WORKER-

**Milwaukee, WI- Mary Robinson Scott,** subsided swiftly to the ravages of cancer November 22, 1999. Mary was sister to Janice Robinson-Newborn of Indianapolis, IN. They were the last survivors in the Robinson Family.

Mrs. Scott was an overseas Red Cross worker during World War II; Metropolitan Housing staff in Ohio; Director of Community Outreach for a Presbyterian Church in Wisconsin; team director for community technicians servicing low-income families. She married Wesley Scott who served as the Executive Secretary for the Milwaukee Urban

League for 35 years.

Her sister, Janice Newborn, is a retired Executive for the Office of Disciples Church Women, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Ernest Newborn conducted a graveside service in Youngstown, OH November 30, 1999. A memorial service was held in Milwaukee, WI in early December.

### ♥MINISTER/MOTHER

**Wilson, NC- Mary Bailey,** an ordained clergy serving congregations in the Eastern Seaboard, had her homegoing November 18, 1999.

She was the mother of Dwight Bailey, who recently served on the Illinois/Wisconsin Regional Church staff as District Minister for the

Metro Chicago District.

The Memorial Service was held Nov. 21, at the St. James Christian Church, in Wilson, NC.



**You're Pushing us into 2000 AD and our Tenth Year of Publication! Thanks so Much!**

**UPDATED DONOR LISTING  
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**AUGUST-** Verlesta Hicks, Dayton, Ohio; Mary Watson, Hazel Batsell, Kansas City, MO; Louise Moseley, Columbia, MO; Gene/Nancy Rutherford, Don/Gretchen Wharff, Raymore, MO; Waymon Martin, High Point, NC; Roland/D Huff, Jacksonville, FL; Edwin Allender, Indianapolis, IN

**SEPTEMBER-** Willie Green, Jefferson City, MO; Margaret Roberts, Kansas City, MO; Robert/Dianne Steffer, Paris, KY; Walter Bingham, Louisville, KY; Robert Brock, Seattle,

**OCTOBER-** WA; Enoch Henry, Palestine, TX; A.L. Mothershed; Little Rock, AR; Artie Scott, Chicago, IL; Mayme Garner; Cincinnati, OH

**NOVEMBER-** Louise W. McConnell, Raymore, MO

**DECEMBER-** Willie E. Green, Jefferson City, MO

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**WISHING YOU A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON AND UPLIFTING NEW YEAR:**

*Please accept these sincere thoughts from the Editor of THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE and his wife, Reubena, and each of the Board of Directors.*

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# OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE BEGINS 10TH.YEAR WITH "THANKSGIVING"

*THANKS- (from Page 2)*

**Mabel Metze**, retired teacher, overseas missionary, general church staff/leader- Indianapolis, IN  
**Earl Wadsworth Rand**, retired president of Jarvis Christian College, regional, general church leader- Marshall, TX.

**AND MANY OTHERS JUST  
LIKE THE ABOVE**

## FINALLY THE COOPERATING PRINTER:

Printing services received over the past nine years have been from good to excellent. In most instances, when the printer received good copy and



**Shirley Rhoads**, current OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE printer, retires January 1, 2000 A. D.

pictures the issue produced was excellent. For the past four years, THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

has received professional services of Shirley Rhoads Printers in Grandview, MO. Shirley, the owner, is an experienced printer who inherited the management of the operation from her father, 35 years ago.

The company will change hands January 1, 2000 following her retirement December 31, 1999. This issue of THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE will be the last one she will have a hands-on in producing. Shirley is very proud of her efficiency as a printer and the excellent legacy she received from her father. We will miss the attention Shirley has given to the production of the OLDTIMERS'.

*-W. K. F., Sr -*

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