



Currents

Great River Region Newsletter November 5, 2014 Rev. Barbara E. Jones, Regional Minister

NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE!!!

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JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

Friends,

One final reminder to register for the Regional Assembly if you haven't already done so. Hope to see you at Dr. Boring's seminar on Friday, November 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Chalice Hall, First Christian Church, Sherwood.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Jim and Birdye Farmer. Jim is Minister Emeritus at Park Hill Christian and is at home under hospice care.

Tom Haley, moving forward following radiation therapy for prostate cancer.

Samantha Haub's husband, Jeff, deployed, United States Air Force

Barb Jones, continue prayers for Barb as medical folks try to chase down cause of anemia and GI issues.

Tina Jones, Regional Administrative Assistant. Tina's husband, **Pastor Cletis Jones,** diagnosed with kidney cancer. The Urologist said they will do surgery this Tuesday to remove one of his kidneys.

Donna Rountree's son, Caleb, recovering from a very serious automobile accident. He has returned to work.

Holly Patton's brother, John, pancreatic cancer.

Steve and Melanie Willis are in route to their new life and ministry at First Christian Church, Las Vegas, Nevada.

We welcome back **Jim and Jo Lynn Robinson** who are returning following their Interim Ministry at First Christian Church, Las Vegas.

NEWS and EVENTS



Regional Assembly 2014 November 7-9 Park Hill Christian Church North Little Rock, Arkansas

(Registration forms & Brochure are available on website: www.grrdisciples.org under Regional Assembly tab)

PRE-ASSEMBLY EVENT FOR CLERGY – On Friday, November 7, from 9 am –3 pm based on Dr. Boring’s latest book, “An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology.” **Registration required.**

Guest Speakers:

Eugene Boring, Professor Emeritus, Brite Divinity School
Zedric Clayton, Real Faith Christian Church
Dick Hamm, The Columbia Partnership
Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President

This year, you can **register online at grrdisciples.org**, by clicking the Regional Assembly tab and then clicking the blue RA button - this will take you to the online registration page.

Voting delegates - don't forget that we will need a letter from your congregation indicating that you are the delegate for your congregation - it needs to be on letterhead and should be signed by your Board Chair.

We'd also like you to **register for your workshops** so we have appropriate room available - if you need a list of the workshops, please let us know (or, you can print a copy of the Regional Assembly brochure...also on grrdisciples.org, Regional Assembly page)

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations!! We have rooms blocked (under Great River Region) at the following hotels:

- Hilton Garden Inn - 501-945-7444 (priced \$79-\$109)
- Fairfield Inn - 501-945-7777 (\$99 - all rooms)
- Comfort Inn - 501-801-1901 (priced \$70-\$75)

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to let us know. You can call us at 501-562-6053 or email us at wendy@grrdisciples.org.

Great River Region Disciples Men Fellowship. I, Stan McDougal, am serving as your Regional Disciple Men's Coordinator. I am Pastor of Parkview Christian Church in Little Rock, AR. The

Regional Disciple Men's Fellowship has not been active for a number of years but with your help DMF will be renewed. I am planning on using the DMF luncheon at the upcoming Regional Assembly as the launch of the renewed DMF. At the luncheon the program will be a quartet from the Diamond State Barbershop Chorus. I hope that you and the men of your congregation will attend. In the meantime, I would like to know if your congregation has a Disciples Men Fellowship and if so please send me the name of a contact person to stan.mcdougal@att.net.

The members of the **East Percy Street Christian Church in Greenwood, MS** will be celebrating their Pastor and First Man, Elder Patricia and Deacon Walter Parker, 12th Year Annual Love Day on Sunday, November 16 at 11:00 A.M. The guest speaker will be Rev. Ray A. Jackson, Pastor of Turner Chapel AME Church in Greenwood, MS. The public is invited to come. For more information, please call 662-392-6819.

Parkview Christian Church, Little Rock, AR. Rev. Stan McDougal, Pastor.
Construction on the Worship Center, parking area and some renovations to Fellowship House is nearing completion. The first worship service in the Worship Center will be held on Sunday, November 30, the First Sunday of Advent. Picture one is of the Worship Center and picture two is of Fellowship House.



CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION & STAFF UPDATES

Congregations in Pastoral Search and Call:

FCC Hot Springs, AR: full time pastor

FCC Pine Bluff, AR: part/full time pastor

FCC Stuttgart, AR: part/full time pastor

Park Hill CC, N Little Rock, AR: Actively searching for a full time Associate minister with emphasis in Christian Education and Youth. Please send [all inquiries](mailto:all_inquiries) to barb@grrdisciples.org who will forward them to the committee.

From Regional Minister Barbara Jones: Barb@grrdisciples.Org:

Preparing for Regional Committee on Ministry (RCOM) and Regional Assembly 2014!

PRE-REGIONAL ASSEMBLY EVENT FOR CLERGY AND LAY LEADERS

All clergy and lay leaders are invited to attend a free of charge Pre-Regional Assembly Learning Event with Dr. M. Eugene Boring, I Wylie Bricsoe Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. We will meet Friday, November 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Chalice Hall, First Christian Church, 2803 E. Kiehl Ave, Sherwood, Arkansas (less than five miles from Regional Assembly Host, Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock.) Lunch will be included. Dr. Boring will be teaching from his newest book, **An Introduction to the New Testament**, to help us grow in our knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the New Testament. All who attend will be given a free copy of Dr. Boring's book. Please sign up for this event through the Regional Assembly Registration so that we'll know how many to expect.

Pinnacle Outreach Ministry is honored to sponsor this event. As an extension of Pinnacle Structures, Inc. of Cabot, Arkansas, and the Great River Region, our mission is "Helping Equip the Faithful for the Work of Christ", and our main focus is outreach with congregations and secular organizations that are reaching out to meet the needs of people.

Rev. Miles Cook, Director, Pinnacle Outreach Ministry

REGIONAL ELDERS

Your Regional Elders continue to be at work. Our purpose is "to serve the Great River Region as pastoral leaders, supporting the Executive Regional Minister and offering support and friendship to all ministers and their families in the region."

We have 12 regional elders serving, with each one shepherding a group of ministers within a geographical area of where each lives:

Rev. Donald Dick: McComb, Mississippi; Rev. Lewis Godby: Mountain Home, Arkansas; Rev. Sherry Horton: Tupelo, Mississippi; Rev. Randy Jay: Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Rev. Frank Johnson: Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Rev. Russell Myers: Jackson, Mississippi; Rev. Bob Palmer: Jonesboro, Arkansas; Rev. Patricia Parker: Itta Bena, Mississippi; Rev. Ann Pickett-Parker: Moss Point, Mississippi; Rev. Graham Riggs: Shreveport, Louisiana; Rev. Judy Turner: Eureka Springs, Arkansas; Rev. Miles Cook: Sherwood, Arkansas

We are honored to be serving our region in this way, and we thank you for your prayerful support. In Christ's service, Miles Cook, Regional Elders Coordinator

From Alisha Pettigrew Gourley, Youth Coordinator: youth@grrdisciples.org:



We're very pleased and excited to announce that Alisha Gourley is the new Regional Youth Coordinator.

Alisha is currently serving as youth pastor for Millwood Christian Church in Rogers Arkansas.

Alisha grew up in the camping program and very active in the region. She looks forward to growing young disciples in our rich traditions while establishing other new and powerful traditions. Her first event is regional assembly.

If you see her smiling face stop and say hello.

nPartnership to hold Workshop at Regional Assembly: nPartnership will be holding a workshop at assembly hosted by Michael Davison and Randy Kuss to go over the work we've done this past year and present their final recommendations. Youth and adults alike are encouraged to attend. There will be a 1:30 and 2:45 option.

YOUTH

Regional Assembly registration can be found on the Regional Assembly tab on the website www.grrdisciples.org.

Regional Assembly. November 7-9 at Park Hill CC - Theme is *"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"*.
Grades 6-12

Basic Registration - \$35 ***Covers Heifer Ranch and Altitude Trampoline Park***

Friday night dinner – add'l \$15 for one person (also a family option)

Saturday night dinner – add'l \$20 for one person (also a family option)

Below is a tentative schedule for the YOUTH portion of the assembly:

Friday

7:00pm All Assembly worship – Rev. Zedric Clayton preaching - Park Hill CC (*optional*)

9:00pm Welcome and Ice Breakers – FCC Sherwood

10:00pm Free Time/Get Ready for bed

11:00pm Lights Out

Saturday

7:00am Wake up/Breakfast

8:00am Depart for Heifer Ranch

12:00pm Sack lunch at Heifer Ranch

2:00pm Return from Heifer Ranch to FCC Sherwood – Free Time

2:45pm nPartnership Wrap-Up Workshop, PHCC (*optional*)

**There are afternoon workshops and more info will be made available to you with options for activities Saturday afternoon*

6:00pm All Assembly Dinner – Park Hill CC

7:30pm Depart for Altitude Trampoline Park

8:00pm Altitude Trampoline Park jump time is from 8-9pm

9:30pm Return from park, get ready for worship

10:30pm Worship

11:00pm Free Time/Get ready for bed

11:30pm Lights Out

Sunday

7:00am Wake Up/Pack Up/Breakfast

**Breakfast will end the youth portion of the assembly. Sunday morning worship will be up to your group. You are welcome to stay at FCC Sherwood or worship with the greater assembly at Park Hill CC.*

International Affairs Seminar. Welcome to the International Affairs Seminar 2015 sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Great River Region. Join director Ronny

Nowell and Co-Director along with other high school juniors and seniors from Disciples of Christ congregations visiting two amazing cities —Washington DC and New York City, during Spring Break. March 21st-28th.

How Will We Get There? We will meet Saturday, March 21, 2015 to fly as a group to Washington DC. From Washington DC we will travel by passenger train to New York City. We will return by air from New York City on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Transportation to and from the airport is not included.

How Much Does It Cost? The Seminar cost is \$2000 which includes airfare, Amtrak from DC to NYC, local transportation, insurance, lodging, materials, speakers, and the Broadway musical and all meals. Participants will need a minimum amount for souvenirs and other items not included in the registration fee (shopping, sightseeing, etc.) Many participants have their trip costs covered through fundraising activities in their local church and local civics groups. **A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required by November 15, 2014.** The balance of \$1500 and your assignments, recommendations and other forms are due by January 31, 2015 in order to complete your application and be accepted as a participant on this trip. Applications are also available on www.grrdisciples.org under the Youth tab. For More Information Contact: Rev. Ronny Nowell at 479.636.2230 or ronny@fccrogers.org

News from our Partners in Ministry

Great River Region. <http://www.grrdisciples.org>

National Disciples of Christ. <http://www.disciples.org/>

Lexington Theological Seminary. <http://www.lextheo.edu/>

Missouri School of Religion courses. <http://midamericacenterforministry.wordpress.com/>.

Global Ministries. <http://globalministries.org/>

Week of Compassion. <http://www.weekofcompassion.org/>. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (DOC) in the United States and Canada. We seek to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

Disciples Home Missions. <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/>

Disciples Mission Fund is the common fund of the Christian Church (DOC). DMF supports 72 ministries of wholeness as close as your local congregation and reaching around the globe. As a Global Mission church, we understand that equipping congregations for mission includes learning from, learning with and offering support to our partners beyond the borders of the United States and Canada.

Juliette Fowler Communities has been named one of the best nursing and rehab centers in [U.S. News and World Report](#). Since 1903, Fowler has been a member institution of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is located in Dallas at 1234 Abrams in close proximity to major medical centers. An intergenerational community, Fowler serves children, elders and families. To learn more, call 214.827.0813 or go to www.fowlercommunities.org or connect with us at www.facebook.com/juliettefowlerhomes.

US News and World Report: <http://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes/area/tx/juliette-fowler-communities-675952>

National Benevolent Association: XPLOR Residency:

NBA XPLOR is a faith-based, 10-month, congregationally-hosted residency program designed for 21 to 30 year olds looking to explore lives of care and service — giving them the opportunity to unleash their own potential, while positively impacting their community. We encourage you to check it out! <http://www.nbacares.org/xplor>
