



Currents

Great River Region Newsletter November 21st, 2014 Rev. Barbara Jones, Regional Minister

NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE!!!

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JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

Joys

Brooke and Kristopher Shuman (Kris is Barb's son) gave birth to Kendall Louise on November 16. She came home yesterday and has joined her big brothers Tyler (almost 2) and Austin (4) to make a very busy household!

Barb Jones shared with the Assembly that this would be her last; it is time for the Region to begin planning for leadership succession when the Board meets in January. It is the Board's responsibility to work with Executive leadership as per the Bylaws, and a definite plan can be shared after the board meets. Though not retiring, Barb will finish 20 years July 31 as Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Arkansas and then the Great River Region. She shared that her next move will be in with her parents. Gerry, (soon 86) and Virginia (84) both came to the Regional Assembly to celebrate Barb's 60th birthday and were present alongside her brother Jim, his wife Diana; Barb's son Kenny, wife Andrea and son Rilee (2); and as a surprise, daughter Kim. This next chapter is not yet defined other than living with her parents to enjoy life with them as they are still active and be present and part of their lives before any critical incidents occur; to be of more support as a Grandmother to 6 who are all 4 and under; to write her dissertation; and discern a call in ministry that will pay the bills and allow for all of the above. A note of Thanks is in her blog at the bottom of the newsletter.

Prayer Concerns

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

Sherry Jagers. Sherry is the mother of **Rev. Steven Sherrill**, Minister of Ivy Chapel Christian Church in Little Rock. She had extensive back surgery and is now recovering.

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.

Holly Patton's brother, John, passed away in Georgia. We have been praying for him and family since we learned John was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Holly wants you to know

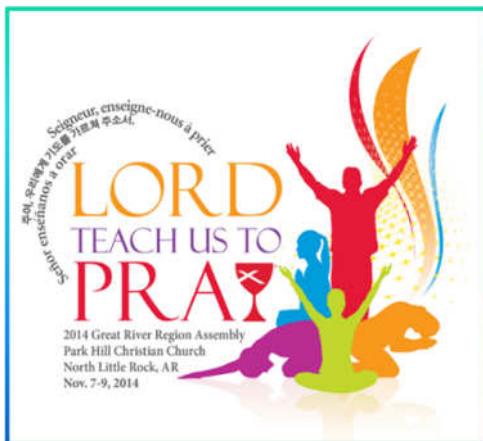
that she has greatly appreciated your prayers and support. She is now back home in Little Rock and continues to need your prayers of support during this difficult time. We surround her with our Christian love and prayers.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank thee, God, for blessings – The big ones and the small
Thy tender love and mercy, That guards and keeps us all.
The fresh awakening of joy - That comes with morning light,
Sunlit hours to fill the day, And restful sleep at night.
The hope, the beauty, and the love - That brighten each day's living
We praise thee, and our hearts are filled, With joy, and with thanksgiving.
The pride that's found in work well done - The love of those who care,
The peace of mind, the sweet content, That comes with quiet prayer.
– Author unknown

NEWS and EVENTS

Regional Assembly 2014 'Wrap Up' *Park Hill Christian Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas*



Offering for Real Faith Christian Church: \$1,726.64
Offering for the Great River Region: \$1,129.38

Pre-Assembly Workshop with Dr. Boring: 53
ministers and 28 lay leaders for a total of 81
Registered participants: 222
Local volunteers: 85

It was a wonderful experience of worship,
fellowship, learning, and reconnecting with our
Regional Church Family!
THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE IT A SUCCESS!

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. 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.

Mt. Sinai Christian Church in North Little Rock, AR is coordinating the preparation and serving of a meal at the Salvation Army (1111 W. Markham in Little Rock) on Saturday, November 29, 5:00 p.m. There needs to be enough food to serve 150 people. The menu is chili, cornbread, salad, crackers and cookies. All of our congregations are invited to participate by contributing food items and/or preparing an industrial sized pot of chili to be brought to the Salvation Army. Help will also be needed to serve the food.

If your church can participate, please contact Sara Rudolph-Pollard at your earliest convenience: 501-366-5935 or srudolphpollard@yahoo.com

First Christian Church Harrison, AR. Operation Christmas Child, Dr. David Artman, Minister.
915 S. Maple, 870-741-5757, fccharrison@windstream.net



We appreciate your support of Operation Christmas Child by bringing items for the boxes, by helping pack boxes and by your monetary gifts to help buy items and ship the boxes. Together we are sending 400 boxes from our church.



Please pray for our boxes as they ship out this week carrying the love of Christ to millions of children all over the world. Pray for the safety of O.C.C. volunteers who are serving in areas of the world that may be hostile toward Christians.

Pray that every boy and girl who receives a shoebox will experience God's unconditional love through this gift.
THANK YOU!

First Christian Little Rock, AR. Broncos Football



1500 N. Mississippi, 501-225-5656.
Rev. Leon Gray, Interim Minister.

Our football team has been practicing very hard during the season. The team ended up with a 6-4 season and went to the Championship game. They lost by 1 point in overtime. The boys played an amazing season and the coaches are very proud of their hard work. The team has given the church a framed picture and thank you card from the prayers for the well wishes given to them during the season. Thank you again for letting us practice

on the lawn and supporting the Broncos this season. Coach JW Plouch and Quarterback Jarrod Plouch #1.

[2014 Annual Christmas Caravan & Outreach](#)



Bringing gifts and services to people in our community who are homeless or near homeless

Saturday, December 20, Clinton Presidential Center parking lot
Santa Claus and the Caravan distributing gifts at 10:00 AM
Outreach services: flu shots, job assistance, and more at 10:00 AM.
Lunch served at 11:30 AM

Toys for homeless and low income children
Sleeping bags, blankets, backpacks, gloves, scarves, coats,
and much more for homeless adults and children
Email: admin@christmascaravan.org, or register at
ChristmasCaravan.org

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: Birthday Thanks!



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!! I was speechless by all of the planning, preparation and presents you, my Great River Region and Disciples Friends, arranged without my knowledge. Special thanks to past Moderator Jennie Gregory and her Awesome Team for making the Regional Assembly, particularly the party celebrating my 60th birthday, such a wonderful event. Thank you, Wendy and Tina, for all of the work you invested in the party and the Assembly's success. I felt then and still feel truly blessed by the notes, cards, indications of good wishes and love. The financial gift(s) sent in through Park Hill Christian Church on my behalf was unbelievable. As often as I was in congregations, how did you keep this from

me? I'm just amazed and truly blessed to be your Regional Minister... for all these years, and for as long as we are able to serve God together. I followed Regional Assembly with spiritual retreat, and had time to read the cards, reflect on the relationships, and pray. Do you know out of that box of cards, there was not one repeated card? Amazing, just amazing. Thank you!

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. Vance Moore: Hattiesburg, 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.

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/juliettofowlerhomes.

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>

hey,

If you are dreaming of a lazy summer on the beach or by the pool, or you can't wait to baptize your feet in fast food grease or commune in discount chain store customer service...

DO THAT.

If you're looking for something more meaningful, something that will take you places, how about a **DHM Summer Internship**

Yeah, we know... Your field is art therapy and this isn't that. Or you think mission internships are just for people thinking of going into ministry.

We get that a lot. Besides, all the internships you've heard about lately are free, and you need money, so you're going to spend the summer in mindless retail or food service for minimum wage.

hoaxes, myths, legends Actually, folks find lots of reasons not to consider a DHM Summer Internship. Let us tell you the real story. **MAYBE WE CAN CHANGE YOUR MIND.**

First, you get paid. That's right. Not a lot, but actual money.

Second, we've had interns who go on to study law, education, music, communications, business, psychology, real estate, political science, speech pathology, and yes, art therapy. Plus some folks who have gone into ministry.

This is a **leadership** internship. You'll learn conflict resolution, group dynamics, facilitation, personality types, confronting bias & privilege, stress reduction, systems and justice. And that's just in the first week.

Then you'll spend the summer **discovering** yourself, your place in the world, **reflecting** on your values and your growing edges, **learning** to be an effective leader and a strong team member. You'll be a more mature you and a better job applicant.

Potential employers will notice. really. *You'll also experience some things that may make you change your plans.*

The world is full of people, and problems; you may kindle passions, discover gifts you didn't know you have. You could change your mind. **Find yourself.** Or you could re-emerge totally committed to the plan you already had, but with new eyes, a renewed spirit, a sense that you are part of something way bigger than you knew. Either way, you win. And so does the world.

If you are at least 20 yrs old by May 23, available from May 23 to Aug 7 and willing to be challenged:

apply!...or explore other service opportunities:

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/mission-internships>

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? give us a call...

Disciples Volunteering

Josh Baird, Director (985) 778-6915

Brenda Tyler, Ministry Associate (888) 346-2631

Deb Conrad, Intern Coordinator (502) 550-1236

Application deadline is Feb 5.

Want to know sooner? Apply by Jan 7 for early placement news.