



Currents

Great River Region Newsletter January 9th, 2015 Rev. Barbara Jones, Regional Minister

NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE!!!

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JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

Joys

Rev. Tom Haley, accepted call to Antioch Christian Church, 8206 S. Main, in **Tull, AR**. 40 Members with average worship attendance 25. Two adult Sunday school classes with average attendance of 7 each.

We welcome **Rev. Ana Wilson** who has recently moved to the Hot Springs area (Royal) from Texas.

We welcome **Rev. Lucian Lee** who is moving back to Camden from Oklahoma.

We welcome back **Rev. Rebecca Frankford** who is living in Searcy for the time being.

We wish **Rev. Donald Dick and wife Shirley** a wonderful retirement in Tennessee. Donald has been the pastor at FCC McComb, MS and the former Moderator of the Great River Region.

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Will Feland and the Feland family. Will's father, **Armstead M. Feland III**, passed away. Armstead (and wife Nancy who died in early November of 2013) were strong and faithful Disciples leaders in central Arkansas for many years and were active members of Pulaski Heights Christian Church, Park Hill Christian Church and First Christian Church of Sherwood.

Mrs. Birdye Farmer and the Farmer family. Birdye's husband, **James M. Farmer (Jim)**, passed away. Jim was Minister Emeritus of Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock and served there as Senior Minister from 1970-1993. He has also served Newport, AR, West Point, MS, and FCC Little Rock. There were congregations in Tennessee and Kentucky as well. His funeral was this past Monday.

Rev. Searcy McBurnett, First Christian Church Maumelle, AR, recovering from eye surgery.

Rev. Sara Rudolph-Pollard - Sara is Assistant Minister at Mt. Sinai Christian Church in North Little Rock. At home following reconstructive foot surgery.

Rev. Joseph Bryant, Cross Street Christian Church in Little Rock, ex wife and the mother of his sons passed away. Her name is **Yvette Martin**, and we express our love and prayers to each one in the family.

Pam Decker, who has served Newport FCC in many capacities including Pastor throughout her life, lost her 49 year old son-in-law to a heart-attack over the Christmas Holidays. We hold Pam, her daughter and their family in our prayers.

NEWS and EVENTS

Real Faith Christian Church, Clarksdale, Mississippi. 600 Yazoo Avenue, 662-624-5911
Rev. Zedric Clayton, Pastor.

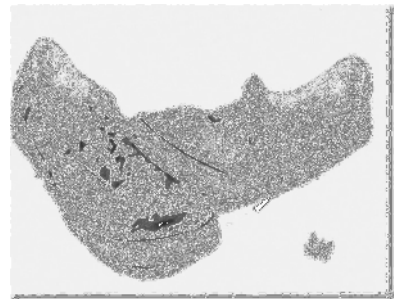
Disciples Volunteering is currently partnered with Disciples Church Extension Fund, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Reconciliation Ministry, Week of Compassion, National Convocation, Disciples Great River Region, and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation to assist Real Faith CC in Clarksdale, MS with the construction of a new facility. Mission teams are needed and Registration is now open for the Special Project with Real Faith CC in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Dates open: November 2014 January—March of 2015. **Cost:** \$100/person for a week
Click this link to Register you Mission Team:

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/disciples-volunteering/sending-teams-in-mission/special-projects/registration-form-real-faith/>

First Christian Church Sherwood, AR. 2803 E Kiehl Ave. 501-835-5505

E-mail: SherwoodFCC@aol.com. Bring your gently used/new shoes and leave in a box in the Narthex. We will be collecting these shoes for the Ozark Water Project through the month of January. Here's how it works: Ozark Water Project turns these shoes into clean drinking water. Your donations will be exported to distributors in South America, Haiti and Kenya where they will be resold for pennies on the dollar. The funds generated by the shoe resale help to build the local economy as well as protect the owner's feet. These funds allow for the purchase of well-digging rigs, water purification systems, and other supplies to bring clean, fresh water to those in need.



Your Food Pantry fed 115 families in December totaling 472 people. Wow!! This has been a year of true blessings; not only for the patrons of our pantry but for the volunteers as well! We continue to receive generous donations that help keep our doors open to those in need.

First Christian Church Little Rock, AR. 1500 N. Mississippi Street. 501-225-5656.

Leon Gray, Interim Minister. **OUTREACH NEWS.**

What a wonderful response we had for our Gold Balls this year. We received \$820.00. The Outreach Committee decided to split the money between "No Kid Hungry" and PATH, which is the organization that works with human trafficking. Thank you for all your support to these special projects. *Your Outreach Committee*

First Christian Church of Greater New Orleans. 8121 Airline Drive, Metairie LA.

504.467.6984. The **Super Bowl of Caring** is coming up on February 1! Did you know that this whole movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world was inspired by this prayer? "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat".

Join us after worship the first Sunday in February for a wonderful lunch and fundraiser for this worthy cause. If you've got a special soup or some other contribution to fill out the meal table you'd like to bring please contact Shirley Johnson so she can get labels made up. Pastor Glen Schory.

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.

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

FCC Blytheville, AR: associate pastor with potential to become senior pastor

Please send [all inquiries](#) to barb@grrdisciples.org who will forward them to the committee.

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

The New Year has started out busy as expected! We lost two faithful leaders on New Years Day as you read earlier. But somehow, the gathering of the larger Church family was a celebration of one who shared in so many lives. On the same day as Dr. Farmer's visitation, Sara Rozzell, and friends hosted a shower for her brother Matt and wife Julie's soon to be born son. Earlier that day I was at FCC Hot Springs and Cindy Woolery announced that her mother was cancer free after a battle with PANCREATIC CANCER! What a day! Have you ever known anyone to be healed like that? And isn't it typical that within a church family a dear one ends a full life as a new one prepares to enter life on earth?

We just had a little excitement and I learned a new term you might want to know: Apple Pickers. Someone comes up to you and asks to use your phone to call home (etc) and runs

off with it. We have regular “guys” (all male to date) who regularly try doorknobs of our cars here at the office and the adjacent church as well as at home in North Little Rock. Melanie had her computer stolen at the office, Tina had her phone taken, I’ve lost numerous electronics at home that I left in the car (gps, phone, etc) and forgot to lock the car. Tina saw the guy who took her phone trying the locks on our doors today and called 911 while I got my phone (camera) and Wendy got her stuff. We followed him by car to get his picture track him until the police responded. He kept his head away from us and dove down into the ditch as soon as he recognized us. The police showed Tina and I several pictures of their frequent Apple Pickers on their computer, but they guy they think it is didn’t have a photo.

Tomorrow I’ll be driving to McComb to meet with their board Sunday Morning and be with them through Worship. Originally I was going to work my way back and make some visits on the way, but the ministers meeting for Central Arkansas got rescheduled due to Dr. Farmer’s funeral last Monday so I’ll be coming right back to Little Rock.

Do you hear a theme of movement and things happening that change schedules and occur “the way from... to...”? That is where Jesus taught his disciples about life. That’s where healings occur. That’s where parables were told. That’s where the intimate moments of life with Jesus occur and decisions have to be made. So 2015 has begun and I’m “On the road again...”

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 11 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. Patricia Parker: Itta Bena, Mississippi; Rev. Ann Pickett-Parker: Moss Point, Mississippi; Rev. Graham Riggs: Shreveport, Louisiana; Rev. Miles Cook: Sherwood, Arkansas; Rev. Lucian Lee: Camden, 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:



Greetings Church Family and Friends,

I can't wait to kick off January with a weekend with our Youth Commission. A few weeks later in February we will enjoy Snoasis and then before you know it, we will be ready for Camp and Conference.

I hope each of you are experiencing a wonderful Christmas season full of hope, peace, love and joy. Drop me a note and send a picture or two at youth@grrdisciples.org. Blessings & Hugs.

SNOASIS YOUTH CAMP. February 20th -22nd

A Christ-centered weekend retreat for youth Grades 9 - 12, along with adult sponsors.

To be held at Camp Couchdale, 301 Catherine Park Road Hot Springs, AR 71913.

Deadline is January 23rd.

Registration forms are available on the Website at www.grrdisciples.org
under the Youth tab.

2015 SUMMER YOUTH CAMP DATES

June 13th through 14th: Discovery Camp

June 14th through 17th: JYF Camp

June 17th through 21st: Chi Rho Camp

June 21st through 26th: CYF Conference

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.

HISTORICAL CHANGE: WATER IN KENYA

In her arid region in Kenya, Matee Kakoo and women in her community had to walk over six miles in order to collect water, wait in line for four to five hours to draw the water and then start the journey home. Their children could not attend school. Often, families went hungry as there was no water for cooking, watering the crops... the most vulnerable suffered the most. Together, Week of Compassion's partner CWS and the people of Mbangulo built a sand dam and shallow well. The community worked hard to collect local materials. And, they banded together and build the sand dam within a month. One month and their lives were changed forever.

Children are now attending school regularly and do not even have to carry water with them to school. They are drinking safe, clean water from the well dug by their classes. There is now water for vegetables and fruit trees. Families' nutrition is improving and the younger children are thriving. This is truly your Compassion put into Action.

"To speak the truth, this project has changed this community. On behalf of the people of Mbangulo, we thank God for the historical change you have brought this community. It will be remembered for generations to come. Thank you."

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.nbaca.org/xplor>
