



# Currents

Great River Region Newsletter    February 6, 2015    Rev. Barbara Jones, Regional Minister

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## JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

### Joys

**First Christian Little Rock, AR.** 1500 N. Mississippi. 501-225-5656. Leon Gray, Interim.



We have new playground equipment on the Toddler Playground and it is fabulous! There is a helicopter, a three piece train, a Hummer Dune Buggy (now we need the beach....) and a small Teeter Totter! The school was able to make this purchase because of the funds raised at the Fall Festival through ticket sales, Silent Auction, and in large part because of the honorary gifts for Ms. Peggy and the Memorial Gifts for Frank Pratt. Thank you so much, once again, for all you did to make the Fall Festival such a success. It is so much fun enjoying the rewards of that hard work. The children's smiles and

squeals of delight are all the thanks anyone really needs!

**Charlotte Gadberry** did a splendid job of being Mother Goose at our Nursery Rhyme Tea party last Friday. The children were absolutely in awe of her and couldn't get enough of hugging her and wanting to touch her long silver locks of hair. It was a magical conclusion to our Nursery Rhyme Week and the children are still talking about it!

### Prayer Concerns

Sympathy is extended to **Larry Hostetter** in the death of his wife, Thelma, who was a faithful member of First Christian Church, Jonesboro. Visitation was held at the church on Tuesday evening, Jan. 27. Funeral services & burial were in Missouri later in the week. In lieu of flowers or memorials the family requests donations toward funeral expenses. Checks should be made payable to Emerson Funeral Home designated for Hostetter. The mailing address is 1629 E. Nettleton, Jonesboro, AR 72401. Emerson will send acknowledgements. Larry is the President of NE Arkansas Disciples Men.

**Rev. David Chisham**, Pastor at First Christian Church Baton Rouge, LA, mother, Gertie Chisham, passed away last Sunday, after an extended illness. Services were in Wichita, KS.

**Rev. Miles Cook**, mother, Nancy Cook, had triple bypass surgery at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. Please keep Miles and the whole family in your prayers.

**Rev. Frank and Jane Johnson**, Regional Elder in Baton Rouge, son Bradley was transported to the hospital when he went into cardiac arrest and did not survive.

**Regional Minister Barbara Jones**, mother Virginia Jones fell and broke the humerus... bone in her arm. And her Daughter, Kim had lymph node biopsies on Thursday.

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## NEWS and EVENTS

During Lent, **Antioch Christian Church in Tull, AR** will offer a four-session study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: His Life and Writings. The study meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The date is Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and on the 18th. The study will include a very informative and inspiring DVD of Bonhoeffer's life. Tom Haley, Pastor of ACC, will lead the study. 8206 S. Main Street. 501-778-9057.

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**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/>

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**Christview Ministries** 992 County Rd 309 **Eureka Springs, AR.** 72632.

Beginning February 2015: "A Survey of the New Testament," taught by John J. Turner, author of *Living the Full Bible* (<http://livingthefullbible.com/>). The plan is to cover the entire New Testament in approximately 24 sessions, one each month. Each session will be offered twice. Participants can attend either the first Tuesday or the following Saturday of each month, 9:00 AM to Noon. There will be an optional bring-your-own-bag lunch with free-flowing discussion following each session. There is a suggested completely voluntary donation of \$15.00 per session.

This course begins with "The Earliest Gospel: Mark, Part 1," Tuesday, February 3, or Saturday, February 7, 9 AM to Noon. Make reservations as soon as possible to assure that there will be ample copies of study notes available: phone 479-253-5865 or email [john@christviewmin.org](mailto:john@christviewmin.org). Be sure to leave your contact information (*preferably email*) so that you can be notified of any

necessary adjustments in the schedule (*such as due to inclement weather*).

John Turner says, *"I pray that every person who takes this study course will gain life-changing insights into the faith and mission of Jesus, the apostles, and the first century church. I love it when I hear, 'I didn't know THAT was in the Bible!'"*

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**First Christian Church Rogers, AR.** 905 South 13<sup>th</sup> St. 479-636-2230. [www.fccrogers.org](http://www.fccrogers.org), [office@fccrogers.org](mailto:office@fccrogers.org). Rev. Shawn Wallace, Pastor.

**All-Church Valentine Banquet**, Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Fellowship Hall

It's time for the Annual All-Church Valentine Banquet, hosted by CROSS Training. Delicious meal and outstanding entertainment. Your MC for the evening will once again be *The Great Ronaldo*. That in itself is pretty great, but it gets even better with performances by our gifted and talented youth.

Everyone is invited. Cost: \$10 per person. A nursery will be provided upon request in advance. This is always a wonderful time. Don't miss it!!

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## 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](mailto:barb@grrdisciples.org) who will forward them to the committee.

**From Regional Minister Barbara Jones:** [Barb@grrdisciples.Org](mailto:Barb@grrdisciples.Org):

Working from Kansas City this week and then to Regional Committee on Ministry in Shreveport, LA on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

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### REGIONAL ELDERS

As time goes along, circumstances change and occasionally one of our Regional Elders needs to step down due to their personal circumstances. We do our best to be supportive when that happens, and also to diligently fill the position so that all of the ministers in our region are being checked on with prayerful and caring support. The current list of those serving are:

**Rev. Vance Moore: Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Rev. Sherry Horton: Tupelo, Mississippi; Rev. Randy Jay: Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Rev. Frank Johnson: Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Rev. Lucian Lee: Camden, Arkansas; Rev. Russell Myers, Jackson, Mississippi; Rev. Patricia Parker, Itta Bena, Mississippi; Rev. Ryan Pfeiffer: Fayetteville, Arkansas; Rev. Ann Pickett-Parker: Moss Point, Mississippi; Rev. Graham Riggs: Shreveport, Louisiana; Rev. Miles Cook: Sherwood, Arkansas**

We continue to be honored to serve our region in this way.

Miles Cook, Regional Elders Coordinator, [milescook@outlook.com](mailto:milescook@outlook.com).

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From Alisha Pettigrew Gourley, Youth Coordinator: [youth@grrdisciples.org](mailto:youth@grrdisciples.org):

## 2015 SUMMER YOUTH CAMP DATES

June 13th through 14th: Discovery Camp      grades K - 2  
June 14th through 17th: JYF Camp              grades 3 - 5  
June 17th through 21st: Chi Rho Camp        grades 6 - 8  
June 21st through 26th: CYF Conference      grades 9 - 12

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## 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.

**NOW DUE!!!**

Registration forms are available on the Website at [www.grrdisciples.org](http://www.grrdisciples.org)  
under the Youth tab.

The *Theme* for Snoasis 2015 will be **“COMFORT”** and we are blessed that Sarah Dowd from FCC Monroe, Louisiana has taken the calling to make her Keynote debut at Snoasis this year!

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## News from our Partners in Ministry

**The Board of Directors of the Council on Christian Unity** announces the job opening for President-Elect. Interested applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest and resume with the names and contact information for four references (including a Regional Minister for pastors or a congregational pastor for lay people). Applicants may send this information to [ccusearch@gmail.com](mailto:ccusearch@gmail.com) by March 15, 2015. Please share this information with anyone you feel would be appropriate. The profile and links to other information are available on the disciples.org website at: <http://disciples.org/general/council-christian-unity-seeks-president-elect/>

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**Disciples Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM)** has an urgent need to fill the



positions of Director of Development and Director of Programs and will begin scheduling interviews as soon as we receive materials from qualified candidates.

[\(click here to see Applications\)](#)

Blessings, Chris Dorsey, President  
Higher Education & Leadership

Ministries 314.566.1440 [president@helmdisciples.org](mailto:president@helmdisciples.org)

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### **Mount Sequoyah.**

#### **DivorceCare Group Support Class. February 8- May 10, 2015**

DivorceCare is a weekly class to help you face the challenges of separation and/or divorce and move toward rebuilding your life. You'll gain access to valuable DivorceCare resources to help you deal with the pain of the past and look forward to rebuilding your life.

This 13 week program will be facilitated by Denni Palmer, Mount Sequoyah Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Coordinator. The class will meet from 5- 7 p.m. in the Martin Classrooms.



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

#### **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. February 8- April 12, 2015**

This life-changing class taught by Dave Ramsey and the FPU teaching team on video will help you achieve your financial goals by showing you how to eliminate debt, save for the future, and give like never before. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever.

This 9 week program will be facilitated by Wendy Kane, The class will meet at 5 p.m. in the Martin Classrooms.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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**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/>

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**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.

## From Disaster to Recovery

*By Rev. Josh Baird, Director of Disciples Volunteering with Disciples Home Missions.*

In the critical aftermath of a disaster, it is typically inappropriate, and sometimes impossible, for any but the nearest neighbors to physically show up to help; yet Disciples are there because of our support and gifts to Week of Compassion.



The pattern is intentional and consistent: from the immediate extension of solidarity grants to affected Disciples members and churches to on-going partnership and recovery grants, Disciples aim to be present for as long as we are needed. Not all nonprofit and faith-based organizations are active throughout the full recovery, yet the dogged commitment of Week of Compassion and its partner Disciples Volunteering have earned Disciples the reputation of showing up when help is needed and being among the last to leave.

This is exemplified by our response in Joplin, Missouri through a partnership that also included the United Church of Christ, host church South Joplin Christian Church, and local recovery organization Rebuild Joplin. Last summer, more than three years after the massive EF-5 tornado devastated Joplin, people were still looking for help with their recovery. Turned away by other organizations or unaware that help was available, they had only just learned of the services provided by Rebuild Joplin.

In August 2014, South Joplin hosted its last Disciples/UCC mission team, which worked on the home of one of these families while a grant from Week of Compassion helped purchase materials. In December 2014, Rebuild Joplin held their final housewarming after completing their 180<sup>th</sup> home rebuilt or significantly repaired.



To some, it is strange to talk about recovery from an event that happened almost four years ago. For Disciples, it is who we are.

From the moment help is needed until the work is done, Week of Compassion enables Disciples to be present, putting Compassion into Action with neighbors for the long haul.

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**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.

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**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](http://www.fowlercommunities.org) or connect with us at [www.facebook.com/juliettefowlerhomes](https://www.facebook.com/juliettefowlerhomes).  
US News and World Report: <http://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes/area/tx/juliette-fowler-communities-675952>

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**National Benevolent Association: XPLORESidency:**

NBA XPLORES 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>

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