



# Currents

Great River Region Newsletter    March 20, 2015    Rev. Barbara Jones, Regional Minister

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## JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

We have lost one of our finest ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Sharing from the Georgia Regional Website:

**Dr. Fred Craddock** - passed away on Friday, March 6. Please be in prayer for Nettie, his wife and the rest of the family.

**Regional Minister Barbara Jones.** Please keep Barb Jones and family in your prayers concerning the recent death of her niece, Amy. Barb's daughter, Kim, is going to have 12 weeks of chemotherapy beginning in April; her mother's arm has healed to the point she is now able to do rehab; and Barb has moved her surgery up to April 15. It is abdominal surgery which will require 6 weeks recovery, so she will be in the hospital about 5 days and home the rest of the time.

Please keep **Rev. Jeff and Susie Koehn** in your prayers as Susie continues to recover from last Monday's outpatient surgery. Jeff reports that her healing seems to be right on schedule.

**Rev. Miles Cook,** Please keep Miles and the whole family in your prayers. Miles mother, Nancy Cook, had triple bypass surgery at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. She has returned home but has up to a year of recovery ahead of her.

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## NEWS and EVENTS

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

LENT.

Here we are in the fifth week of Lent. The word Lent is not found in the Bible. Lent developed later. Man developed Lent some time after the life of Christ here. It evolved from the Christian custom of fasting. The custom has virtually disappeared in our churches today. In earlier times it was a regular practice. First, let's talk about what Lent is not. Lent is not a time to wallow in the ashes of our past sins and inadequacies. God has forgiven them, if we ask him and mean it. God

has washed them away. They are forgiven and forgotten if we believe him. We have been restored, healed and made new again. God says we are made whole, now we are to go forth in confidence and do his will. How do I know this? God said so. Lent is not a time leading to the cross. It is a time leading through the cross to the resurrection. It is a time of celebrating renewal, rebirth, resurrection, and eternal life. Lent is the time to prepare for Easter. In the early church fasting came from the belief in evil spirits. People believed evil spirits were in everything, even in food. So prior to a religious event, such as baptism, people would eat no food in order to be as free as possible of evil spirits. Later, fasting became a sort of discipline of the spirit for sacred times. Easter is an especially sacred time for Christians. From the early times fasting took place before Easter to prepare the body and the spirit. Fasting is fine if that is what one chooses to do, but I am convinced that God wants more from us today than just giving up candy for Lent. Perhaps this is a time we should take stock to find God's will for our lives. To find happiness and satisfaction in this life we have to know God is using us. We have to realize God has a purpose for our lives. To find real joy we have to give up trying to be good and clever and instead open our lives to the power that God holds for us. Lent is the time to move quietly with Christ into the newness of life he came to bring. In this Lent, instead of giving up something, let's try to find something. Grace and Peace, Leon Gray, Interim Minister

Also

Join us for community-wide *Easter Fun and Egg Hunts* - Saturday Evening, March 28 from 5-6 Free spaghetti dinner from 6-7:00 p.m.

Games, crafts, activities, Door prizes and egg hunts for birth—5th grade!

[www.fccoflr.com](http://www.fccoflr.com). For more information contact Jessie Gray at [jessicagriffith2@gmail.com](mailto:jessicagriffith2@gmail.com)

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*You are cordially invited  
to join the faith community of  
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
for a Service of Ordination  
to Christian Ministry  
for Zena Featherston Marshall  
& Rose Guy-Sibley  
at 2 p.m. • Sunday, March 29, 2015  
at First Christian Church (DCC)  
3501 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Reception to Follow*



### Items needed for Pacific Islands Christian Church, Rogers, AR.

Our newest congregation, being nested at First Christian Church in Rogers, AR, needs the following equipment. Please contact Pastor Sealast Relech, ([srelech@yahoo.com](mailto:srelech@yahoo.com)) if you are able to help, and let [barb@grrdisciples.org](mailto:barb@grrdisciples.org) know as well!

- 1: KEYBOARD - PSR 950 (YAMAHA BRAND)
- 2: BEHRINGER EUROPOWER PMP4000 POWERED MIXER -16 CHANNELS, 1600 WATTS WITH MULTI-FX PROCESSOR AND FBQ FEEDBACK DETECTION SYSTEM
- 3: 2 SPEAKERS (PEAVEY PV-115 SPEAKERS)
- 4: SPEAKER CABLES ( 2 PYLE PPJJ-30 1/4 INCH (30FT)
- 5: MICROPHONE ( BEHRINGER ULTRA VOICE XM1800S DYNAMIC CARDIO ID VOCAL MICROPHONE) 3 MICROPHONES WITH MIC CABLES CBI MLC20 LOW Z XLR MICROPHONE CABLES 20FOOT
- 6: PROJECTOR

Thanks for your help!

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**First Christian Church & Waterway Bentonville, AR.** Rev. Don Morrow, Senior Pastor.

Join us on Good Friday for a reading through the entire Gospel of Mark —  
Friday, April 4 @ 6pm at FCC

Join us for a contemplative service on Good Friday. Don, Cody and Peggy along with several of our Elders will read through the Gospel of Mark, from beginning to end. The mood will be one of reflection, with only the sound of the Good News and artistic renderings of the Gospel displayed. Childcare will be provided. 870 SE 14<sup>th</sup> Street. 479-273-2596.

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### Yellow Pine Christian Church celebrates a milestone

Uncategorized Webster News

by Bonnie Culverhouse - Mar 11, 2015



*Yellow Pine Christian Church's new Sunday school building was built to replicate the sanctuary in the foreground.  
Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald*

### Yellow Pine Christian Church,

formerly Union Church, has been the anchor of Yellow Pine Community since it was built 113 years ago. Over the years, it has been renovated, remodeled and added to the National Historic Register.

“This has all been refinished,” longtime member Jean Thomas said, as she pointed to the pine wood that covers the walls and ceiling of the building. “It was a big job. We have new light fixtures and we added stained glass windows.”

Members also replaced carpet, wiring and added air conditioning.

*"We spared no expense because it wasn't our money," Thomas said. "We were blessed to have a couple of people in our church that could afford to do this."*

*Now, the church with a lengthy history has something it's never had before - a new Sunday school building and a pair of pastors.*

*"Our people are really proud of our church," Pastor Ben Booth said. "All of our members give what they can."*

*Booth and his wife, Theresa, are new to the community, and their co-pastorate is something church members have never experienced.*

*"We came here nine months ago," Booth said. "It was set up by God for us to be here."*

*Booth, a juvenile officer with the Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office, was invited to Yellow Pine to speak to a Sunday school class concerning prison ministry.*

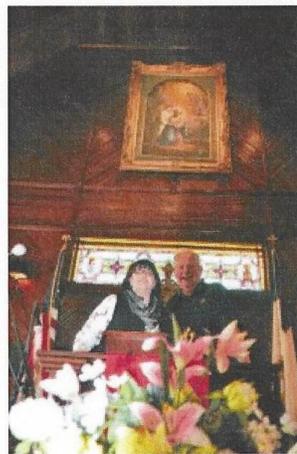
*"They (class) were doing a study, and Theresa, who is also an ordained minister, was preaching at my church that day," he said.*

*"So I decided to just stay and worship with them*

*The pastor resigned a short time later, and God kept putting us together and it worked out."*

*Theresa Booth was the first woman minister to preach at Yellow Pine. Members called Booth to fill the pulpit as a guest minister, but he had had a prior commitment.*

*"They asked about my wife, and I handed her the phone," Booth said. "She preached two weeks." 742 Yellow Pine Rd. Sibley, LA. 318-268-2756.*



*Theresa and Ben Booth are co-pastors of Yellow Pine Christian Church - the first pair of pastors the 113-year-old church has ever had. Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald*

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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 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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## CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION & STAFF UPDATES

### Congregations in Pastoral Search and Call:

FCC Hot Springs, AR: full time pastor

FCC Stuttgart, AR: part/full time pastor

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

FCC McComb, MS: full time interim / 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):

I returned from Denver March 12 and hit the ground running. I made it to the MCMC board meeting, East Percy Street Christian Church for worship, home for a night, and north to Mountain Home, AR, for a farewell to Rev. Lewis Godby who is following his wife's job change to Washington state, shared lunch with the Disciples Women, met both new transitional pastors and met with their board. I got home and on Thursday drove to Broadmoor CC in Shreveport for a meeting and back to Little Rock for Regional Board at FCC Sherwood on Friday and Saturday. Rev. Dr. Todd Adams presented Board Governance Training. Sunday I preached at Ivy Chapel Christian Church in Southeast Little Rock. This week I'll be preparing for General Board and getting work done in the office in preparation for being out for surgery. All of the tests last fall ruled out the scary issues like cancer, but indicated anatomical issues that required surgery. So it will be April 15 and I'll be out for 6 weeks. That will leave June and July to wrap up my ministry here. Wow...

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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

*(coming soon camp booklet with registration forms)*

Magnolia Camp and Conference in Mississippi.  
June 22-27, Roosevelt State Park, Registration fee \$140

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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. 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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**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.

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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: 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>

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