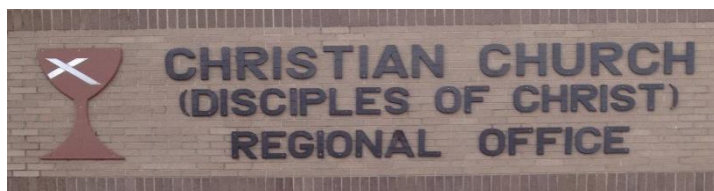




Currents

Great River Region Newsletter

August 7, 2015



9302 Geyer Springs Rd, Little Rock, AR 72209

501-562-6053, 501-562-7089 fax

Email: tina@grrdisciples.org, wendy@grrdisciples.org, and milescook@outlook.com

Regional Website: <http://www.grrdisciples.org>

General Website: <http://www.disciples.org>

Interim Regional Minister Named

To the Congregations of the Great River Region:

As the Acting Moderator of the GRR Board, I am very pleased to announce that for the coming year Dr. Nadine Burton will serve as our Interim Regional Minister!

Dr. Burton comes to us with strong credentials and recommendations. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee-Martin and a Master of Divinity degree from Memphis Theological Seminary. She completed her Doctor of Ministry degree at Lexington Theological Seminary.



Her ministry has included six years of congregational service as Associate Pastor at the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis. She also worked for eight years for the Board of Church Extension, serving in New Church Development.

Dr. Burton has served in a variety of leadership roles within the Disciples of Christ, some of which are the Christian Board of Publication, workshop leader and facilitator at several General Assemblies, and the National Convocation of African-American churches.

I know that you will join me in welcoming Dr. Burton to our region for the coming year. Though her official start date will be September 1, she has already begun working with our retiring Regional Minister, Rev. Barbara Jones, to ensure a smooth transition.

I want to say a special word of thanks to the Search Committee, chaired by former GRR Moderator Jennie Gregory, for their diligence in securing Dr. Burton's services. The

committee has included Gail Akins, John Mobley, Ronny Newell, Patricia Parker, Jean Smith, and me. The committee will continue its work until a permanent Regional Minister is secured. In the meantime, again, help me welcome Dr. Burton to our fellowship!

Dave Britt, First Christian Church, Pineville, LA
Acting Moderator

GREAT RIVER REGION UPDATE

Change is not always easy but is certainly a reality. Since Rev. Barbara Jones announced her resignation (effective July 31, 2015) as our Executive Regional Minister, we have been getting ready for a transition which is now a reality. Barb has already made the move to the Kansas City area and we now await arrival of the Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton on September 1, 2015 as she begins serving as our Interim Executive Regional Minister.

As many of you know, I have been asked to "bridge the gap" in leadership to our Region during the month of August. It has been a strange feeling and yet an incredible honor to sit in the chair that Barb occupied for so many years. I look at my brief time in regional leadership as one of helping keep our ship afloat and heading in a faithful and healthy direction. In the meantime, our regional staff (Wendy Paquette, Tina Jones, and Alisha Gourley) continue to be at work in the various roles to which they are called.

I ask for each of you to be in prayer for Barb as she begins her new life in Kansas City, for Dr. Burton as she prepares to serve our region, for our regional staff members in the work they have before them, for our ministers and congregations throughout the Great River Region, and for me during my brief time of leadership. May we pray for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada as we seek to be faithful to the work of Christ, for the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins and all who lead us, and for the church of Christ universal.

If you have a specific need during the month of August, I can be reached through the regional office (501-562-6053) or my email address which is milescook@outlook.com. It is good to be in ministry with you, and I thank you for all that you do for the cause of Christ.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Miles Cook
Director, Pinnacle Outreach Ministry
Coordinator of Regional Elders

JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

[Rev. Barbara Jones as she begins the new chapter of her life in Kansas City](#)
[Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton as he prepares to serve as our Interim Executive Regional Minister](#)

Rev. Holly Patton and the Patton family upon the recent death of Holly's brother, Andrew Patton
Rev. Randy Jay who feel recently and had surgery on his arm
Rev. Alison Robuck and family through health issues with Alison's father, Merle Phillips
Mr. Don Johannes, Regional Treasure, as he faces surgery next week
Rev. Mona Lisa Garrett who continues to recover from recent surgery
Erin Moore, wife of Rev. Hart Moore, surgery next week

NEWS and EVENTS

Disciples Women RETREATS

It's time to register for RETREAT!



Disciples Women – We are On the Move!!!

August 21-23

AR Retreat at Subiaco

in Subiaco, AR

(Keynote Speaker, Sara Rudolph-Pollard)

September 18-20

MS Retreat at Eagle Ridge

in Raymond, MS

October 9-11

LA Retreat at the Wesley Center

in Woodworth, LA

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE:

www.grrdisciples.org under the [‘Disciples Women’](#) page.

To those of you who have already registered for Retreat - If you would like a "retreat shirt", please be sure to let us know what kind (short sleeve or long sleeve) and size of t-shirt you would like to order. Email your preference to wendy@grrdisciples.org and she will invoice you.



This year your DW Cabinets wanted to do a fund raiser for the Disciples Women Activity Fund - sales of these shirts will go directly to that fund. Cost is \$15 for t-shirts and \$20 for long sleeve shirts. Shirts will say:

Front: GRR DW Retreat 2015

Back: Life Begins at the End of Your Comfort Zone

SALE SALE SALE...Barb Jones is having an ESTATE SALE on August 21st, 22nd & 23rd.

Come on by and support the move.

Address is 4608 N. Vine Street, North Little Rock, 72116.



First Christian Church Baton Rouge, LA. 8484 Old Hammond Hwy. Church Office: (225) 926-4175. www.fccbrla.org. Rev. David Chisham, Pastor.



We are offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Class here at First Christian Church. If you want further information, contact Lisa Fennell at 225-413-6146 or angelisafennell@gmail.com. Classes will be held on Sundays at FCC at 6:00pm beginning August 9. Child care will be provided. Please order your supplies for the class by pasting this link in your browser – http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1001067/atid/l_in.

First Christian Church Conway, AR. 1620 N. Donaghey. www.conwaychristianchurch.com. 501-329-6142. Rev. Donna Rountree, Pastor.



YOUR EMPTY PILL BOTTLES ARE DESPARATELY NEEDED!!!

Ever wonder what you can do with your empty pill bottles? Now you have a place that really needs them! Medical pharmacies and hospital facilities in Malawi often find themselves with nothing except torn pieces of paper in which to wrap medicine for their patients. This is often seen in rural hospitals and villages where the poorest of the nation try to live and survive. You can help to change this.

Save up all of your empty pill bottle containers and place them in boiling water until you are able to easily remove the labels, and the glue. (Stubborn glue can be removed with WD-40.) Then bag them up and bring them to church. It will help families in third world countries keep their medicines clean, out of reach of small children, and safe while they are being used.

Mary Kennemer is collecting them at church and will send them to the Malawi Pill Bottle Project for you. A simple thing you can do to greatly help people in need!

First Christian Church Sherwood, AR. 2803 E Kiehl Ave. 501-835-5505. SherwoodFCC@aol.com. Rev. Jason Ferguson, Pastor. **Ozark Water Project.**



Thanks to everyone who donated their gently used shoes to this awesome mission project! Ozark Water Project recently loaded 10,000 lbs. of shoes in a truck that will be sent to an area for export. A Haitian village was able to receive a well that now provides clean drinking water for a bible college, feeding center, clinic and an orphanage!



Mt. Sinai Christian Church, N. Little Rock, AR. 522 N. Hickory St. 501-374-5665. Rev. LeRoy Bryant, Pastor. **Youth Ministry Coordinator Position sought.** STATUS: Intern (Non-Paid)
HOURS: Sunday school and worship, Wednesday Bible Study and as necessary to accomplish ministry goals. Qualifications:

1. Must love and meet youth where they are.
2. Encourage youth in developing their relationship to God.
3. Provide youth with opportunities for nurture and growth.
4. Challenge youth to respond to God's call to serve in their communities and world.
5. Must embrace Christian discipline and theology.
6. Must have vision and the ability to plan, develop, coordinate, manage and implement a youth ministry.
7. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills, conflict management skills, and computer skills.

Please contact Sara Pollard for full description and all inquiries srudolphpollard@yahoo.com.

2015 Clergy Fall Retreat

September 21-23, 2015
Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco AR

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Hill
Community Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo

Registration forms are available at www.grrdisciples.org.

Due by September 14th to the Regional Office



First Christian Church WaterWay and Bentonville, AR. 807 SE 14th St. 479-273-2596



Molly Rhodes continues pursuit of her dream to compete in the 2016 Paralympic Swim Team 2016

Molly Rhodes, a 2014 BHS graduate who was in Chamber Choir and who has been attending FCC for the past several months, is a very special young lady who is seeking to participate in the Paralympics next year! Molly was forced to have her foot amputated a year ago, but she has exceeded all expectations in her recovery and her spirit and determination have become an inspiration for those around her. We are excited and grateful to announce that through generous donations and fund-raising, Molly has recently secured enough to pay for an athletic prosthesis which will better enable her to compete! We plan to keep everyone up to date on Molly's progress as we continue to cheer her on toward reaching her goals!

Items needed for Pacific Islands Christian Church, Rogers, AR. 479-306-8344.

Our newest congregation, being nested at First Christian Church in Rogers, AR, needs the following equipment. Please contact Pastor Sealast Relech, srelech@yahoo.com or Miles

Cook, milescCook@outlook.com, if you are able to help.

- 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
-

Senior Citizens Beware ...

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

NOTE THAT THE IRS WILL NEVER: 1) call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill; 2) demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe; 3) require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card; 4) ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or 5) threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

First Christian Church Newport, AR. 211 Third St. 870-523-3752.

firstccnewportar@sbcglobal.net . **Church World Service Blankets and Tools**



We collected our offerings and dedicated them to the work of Jesus carried through by dedicated people in foreign places to people who are facing experiences we cannot imagine. We praise God our Provider that we were able to offer \$345 to be used for the purchase of blankets by Church World Service, a trusted and proven, faithful organization that serves others in the name of Christ. This is a wonderful effort by our small but generous and compassionate congregation. Well done good and faithful servants!

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

Congregations in Pastoral Search and Call:

FCC Stuttgart, AR: part/full time pastor
FCC Blytheville, AR: assoc. pastor with potential to become senior pastor
FCC McComb, MS: full time interim / pastor
FCC Hammond, LA
Pulaski Heights CC, Little Rock, AR
FCC Conway, AR
FCC Mountain Home, AR

Please send all inquiries to milescook@outlook.com who will forward them to the committee.

PINNACLE OUTREACH MINISTRY

One of the goals of Pinnacle Outreach Ministry is to do something annually to help the ministers of the Great River Region who are actively serving in ministry. Last year we were privileged to provide our ministers a copy of Dr. M. Eugene Boring's book, **An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology**. We were also able to sponsor Dr. Boring's visit in conjunction with our Regional Assembly which took place November 7-9 in central Arkansas. To view Dr. Boring's pre-assembly seminar as well as his presentations during the Regional Assembly, you may access the following link, and please share this with others: <https://vimeo/user37364414>

This year we are providing our active serving ministers a copy of **The People's New Testament Commentary** by Dr. M. Eugene Boring and Dr. Fred B. Craddock. If you are a minister and have not already received a copy of this commentary, please contact me at milescook@outlook.com.

Yours in Christ's service,
Miles Cook, Director, Pinnacle Outreach Ministry

REGIONAL ELDERS

Rev. Glen Schory: Metairie, LA	Rev. Sherry Horton: Tupelo, MS
Rev. Randy Jay: Ft. Smith, AR	Rev. Russell Myers: Jackson, MS
Rev. Frank Johnson: Baton Rouge, LA	Rev. Patricia Parker: Itta Bena, MS
Rev. Susan Miller: Hot Springs, AR	Rev. Ann Pickett-Parker: Moss Point, MS
Rev. Ryan Pfeiffer: Fayetteville, AR	Rev. Alison Robuck: N. Little Rock, AR
Rev. Graham Riggs: Shreveport, LA	Rev. Miles Cook: Sherwood, AR

In Christ's service,
Miles Cook, Regional Elders Coordinator, milescook@outlook.com.



Support Your Regional **Annual Fund Drive**
donations can be sent to:
Great River Region
9302 Geyer Springs Rd
Little Rock, AR 72209

OUR MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Center for Faith and Giving and the Office of Stewardship and Philanthropy of the United Church of Christ are pleased to announce a partnership effort in generosity - "Stepping Into Stewardship" featuring J. Clif Christopher in Orlando, March 30 - April 1, 2016. Save the dates. centerforfaithandgiving.org



700 Prospect Ave, 5th Floor
Cleveland OH, 44115
www.InsuranceBoard.org

As a reminder the following services are available to **all churches and related ministries in the denominations we serve and include:**

- **SafeConduct™ Workbench**-Abuse Prevention ministry offered by the Insurance Board focusing on conduct in support of children and preserving sacred space. Additionally, offers fundamentals applicable to broader concerns including ethical relationships, sexual harassment, protection of vulnerable adults, bullying and tolerance around race, religion and sexual orientation.
- **Policy Template**-A complete abuse prevention policy template is provided. This Word document template will save you many, many hours of debate and drafting. It includes guidance and essential content missing from many policies.
- **Online Self-Assessment Tool**-Interactive, private space to evaluate your abuse prevention policies and plan for improvements.
- **Free Online Abuse Prevention Training**-This service is offered through our partnership with Praesidium, a national leader in abuse risk management using their Armatus program.
- **Discounted Background Screening Services**-This service is also offered through Praesidium and the Insurance Board further subsidizes discounted rates for participants of our package program.
- **Webinars**-Interactive for those attending the live webinar, current schedule includes subject matter relating to Adult/Child Interaction; Convicted Sex Offenders as Congregants; Financial Controls; Property Valuation and Facebook. A library of previously recorded webinars is also available for viewing at any time.
- **The Steward**-Quarterly newsletter offered by the Insurance Board
- **Loss Control Manuals**-Five volume manual set authored by focusing on People, Safety and Liability; Church Property; Transportation; Youth Activity and Church Management.
- **Your Church: Employer and Small Business**-Provides the basic guidance regarding your church's obligations as an employer and business. It includes information about employment

and governance along with valuable links to resources on taxes and labor law. Many additional resources, such as an **Employee Handbook Template** are available as well.

[Insurance Board Turns 30! Call to Celebrate](#)
[Services for Insurance Board Churches from Praesidium](#)

Jennifer R. Perri CIC, CISR, Director - Member Services, jperri@insuranceboard.org,
Phone: 216.736.3273, 800.437.8830 ext. 3273 or 877.597.8247 ~ Fax: 216.736.3239

Theological Institutions. Seven Disciples theological institutions educate ministers for thousands of Disciples congregations as well as for other denominations. Located in large metropolitan areas, these schools serve as theological, spiritual, and intellectual centers.



- [Brite Divinity School](#)
 - [Christian Theological Seminary](#)
 - [Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago](#)
 - [Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt University](#)
 - [Disciples Seminary Foundation](#)
 - [Lexington Theological Seminary](#)
 - [Phillips Theological Seminary](#)
-

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) contains many ministries that work in covenant to resource congregations for mission and ministry.

Please use the links below to explore their web sites.

- - [Center for Faith & Giving](#)
 - [Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries](#)
 - [Christian Board of Publication](#)
 - [Christian Church Foundation](#)
 - [Council on Christian Unity](#)
 - [Disciples Church Extension Fund](#)
 - [Disciples of Christ Historical Society](#)
 - [Disciples Home Missions](#)
 - [Disciples Men](#)
 - [Disciples Women](#)
 - [Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries](#)
 - [Family and Children](#)
- - [Higher Education and Leadership Ministries](#)
 - [HOPE Partnership for Missional Transformation](#)
 - [National Benevolent Association](#)
 - [National Convocation](#)
 - [New Church Ministry](#)
 - [North American Pacific/Asian Disciples](#)
 - [Pension Fund](#)

- [Reconciliation Ministry](#)
 - [Week of Compassion](#)
 - [Year Book and Directory](#)
 - [Young Adults](#)
 - [Youth](#)
-

Pension Fund of the Christian Church

Dear Clergy,

Jim Hamlett, President of the Pension Fund, is collecting information on the amount of debt that clergy are carrying as part of a study to know how best to serve our colleagues. He has asked that we send this link to you and encourage you to participate if you have not already: The link is as follows: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VD6ZDBK>

Juliette Fowler Communities is a neighborhood of choice and connection, of caring and service, of faith and fulfillment. Founded more than 120 years ago as an intergenerational community, Fowler serves children, youth and seniors, as well as their families, at our East Dallas location. Please browse our website <https://www.fowlercommunities.org/> to learn more about living, serving and sharing at Fowler. Better yet, come visit! To schedule your visit or learn more about Juliette Fowler Communities, call 214.827.0813 or [email](#) us now.

NOTE: Great River Region Churches, be sure to email your News, Conventions, Church Anniversary, or Special Events to: tina@grrdisciples.org. Thank you.