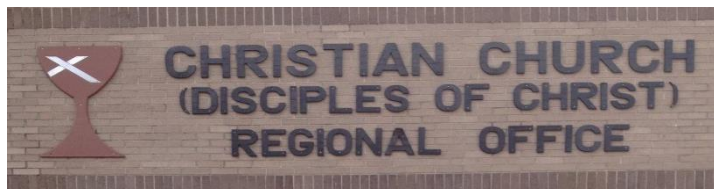




Currents

Great River Region Newsletter

October 30, 2015



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Great River Region Website: <http://www.grrdisciples.org>

Disciples of Christ Website: <http://www.disciples.org>



Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton

Interim Executive Regional Minister

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I pray that you are having wonderful worship experiences, consistent prayer time individually and collectively, challenging theological studies, and active engagement in mission in your communities.

As we transition from Fall to Winter, let us be mindful and grateful for the many ways God continues to bless and meet our needs, as we reach outward to bless others.

Remember that we are a ***“Movement for Wholeness in a Fragmented World.”*** The world around us needs our witness, unconditional love, and the grace that God gives us.

I also want us to be prayerful about the upcoming informational gathering meetings regarding the work of the Search Committee, as they work to find us a Settled Regional Minister. Meetings have been planned strategically around the region so that everyone can have the opportunity to give input into the process (*please see the list in this edition of Currents*). I will be participating in some of the meetings. We need you to show up and voice what you see as needs throughout the Region, what qualifications and gifts you would like to see in our future Regional Minister, and the future direction of our churches together. We are One Great River, ***whose streams shall make glad the city of God. (Psalm 46:4).***

Have blessed week!!!

JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

JOYS



First Christian Church Rogers, AR.

We do thank God for the arrival of Matias Shawn Wallace, Born Sept 24th. He is welcomed by his big sisters, Layla and Arianna. Mom, Michelle, was beyond happy to introduce Matias to his sisters. Pastor Shawn is home on paternity leave and will be back in the office soon. Please continue to keep our pastor and his family in prayer.

Congratulations to Vince Endris! He has been called to Pastor First Christian Lake Charles, LA.
Congratulations to Jim Robinson! He has been called to Pastor First Christian Conway, AR.
Congratulations to Susan Miller! She has been called to Pastor Pulaski Heights in Little Rock.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Alison Robuck to your prayer list. I just found out that Alison had a bad fall on Friday in Oklahoma and fractured her arm. She is now back home in North Little Rock. Alison has been a big help providing pulpit supply to our central Arkansas congregations.

Holly Patton as she recovers from surgery that took place last week. Holly is back to work. Holly has been preaching at First Christian Stuttgart, AR

Joe and Nancy Jorgensen as Nancy recovers from surgery that took place a couple of weeks ago. She should get biopsy results soon. Joe is minister of First Christian Benton, AR.

NEWS AND EVENTS



Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks/watches **BACK one hour before going to bed Saturday night.**

Nov. 1st is All Saints Day.

Nov. 11th is Veterans Day. Please remember our veterans and also all who serve our nation on land, in the air and on the sea.

Nov. 15th-21st is National Bible Week. Encourage your family members to spend time this week reading the Word.

Nov. 26th is Thanksgiving Day. We have much for which to be thankful!

Nov. 29th is the First Sunday in Advent.

GRR INFORMATION GATHERING/VISIONING MEETINGS

The Settled **Regional Minister Search Team of the Great River Region** has begun its work to find our next Regional Minister. As you know, Dr. Nadine Burton has answered the call to serve as our Interim Regional Minister; as such, she cannot be eligible to serve as the “settled” or permanent Executive Regional Minister.

As the Team takes up this work, we would like to hear what you, the leaders and congregations of the Region think. To do that, as previously indicated, we have called on the Regional Elders to help us arrange for a series of information gathering groups throughout the Region.

I invite you and your fellow church members to one of the following information gathering groups. You’re welcome, of course, to attend any session you wish.

We will ask several open-ended questions designed to help us learn your thoughts and opinions about the Great River Region itself and what particular strengths you feel we should pursue in our next Regional Minister. The session should last about an hour or so, though we will continue until we get through all of the questions.

In person dialogue is so helpful among peers that we, the Team, hope that you will make every effort to join us in person, but if not, we still appreciate your sharing your thoughts online.

If you cannot attend the information gathering session, the following link will provide you with an online opportunity to participate:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7CCZDN6>

(scheduled so far)

First Christian Church Newport, Arkansas on November 1 @ 3:30pm.

The Church is located at 211 Third Street. 72112.

First Christian Church Little Rock, Arkansas on November 1 @ 4:00 pm.

The Church is located at 1500 N. Mississippi. 72207

First Christian Church Baton Rouge, LA on November 1 @ 4:00 pm.

The Church is located at 8484 Old Hammond Highway. 70809

Kings Highway Christian Church Shreveport, LA on November 4 @ 6:00 pm.

The Church is located at 806 Kings Highway. 71104

New Generation Christian Fellowship, Pascagoula, MS on Nov. 14 @ 10:00am.

The Church is located at 2811 Martin Street.

First Christian Church Fayetteville, AR on Sunday, November 22 @ 2:30pm.

The Church is located at 220 N. College Street. 72701

Thank you.

Jennie Gregory, Chair Executive Regional Minister Search Team
Gregory.jennie@yahoo.com, 501-517-2773

World Community Day. Church Women United will celebrate World Community Day on Friday, November 6, 2015, at Bethel AME Church, 600 N Cedar Street, N Little Rock. Refreshments will be served at 10:00 a.m.; business meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.; and the program "Our Journey Together" will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Service Idea for GRR Disciples Women

Medicine Bottles for Malawi - For your local DW group and/or congregation!

Landfills Do Not Need Medicine Bottles!

Anyone on prescription medicines finds themselves a bit uncomfortable when throwing away so many empty medicine bottles. It is obvious our landfills do not need these plastic containers! There is enough trash going into the landfills already.

Medicine Wrapped in Paper

While first world nations throw away perfectly good medicine bottles, *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.

Please Remove the Labels

Save up a group of your containers when you have completed that portion of your prescription. Place them in boiling water until you are able to easily remove the labels, and the glue. Then box or bag them and send them to the Malawi Project for shipment to Malawi. *(You can also send old pain reliever bottles that have been cleaned in the same way).*

Safe and Out of Reach of Children

It will help families in a third world country keep their medicines clean, out of reach of small children, and safe while they are being used.

Malawi Project Inc
3314 Van Tassel Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240



First Christian Church Baton Rouge, LA. FUNDRAISER FOR HOPE HOUSE.

Rev. Dr. David Chisham, Pastor.

The Disciple Women will be selling casserole holders (\$10), aprons (\$5) and bibs (\$8) after both services on November 15. Proceeds will be donated to Hope House, a safe house for

women who were saved from Human Trafficking. If you have any questions call Dorinda Hilbun at 349-8301. Pull out your favorite recipes. The Disciple Women will be collecting 2 of your best recipes to put a new cookbook together starting on November 1 through January 15. You'll have plenty of time to dig up something. E-mail them to Dorinda Hilbun at magnova16@att.net. Be sure to include your name.

BETA CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT. NEW Sweater Drive.

When people give clothing donations to charity, they usually clean out their closets. Some donations are out of season, out of style, old and worn, or worse, stained or tattered. Therefore, we are asking you to participate in a NEW SWEATER DRIVE at our church on November 1- 8. The donations will be given to the Homeless Veterans in our area. They have sacrificed so much for us. Let's try to help them keep a little warmer this winter. This is a Community Service Project and your help will be greatly appreciated. Blessings, Joshua Dotts (Oak Grove Primary School) & William Miguez (East Ascension High School)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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

It doesn't seem possible, but its time! Throughout the last 8 months or so we have been bringing items for our shoe box gifts. Now its time to pack and pray! November 16th through the 22nd is Operation Christmas Child's National Collection week. We will be having our packing party on Wednesday, November 18th at our monthly DWF meeting. We are hoping to pack 30 boxes. At this writing, we still need some of the basic items: 30 combs, 10 fun pads, 21 small, yellow writing pads, 23 pencil sharpeners, and any other items you feel urged to include like toys, games, puzzles, hats, gloves, scarves, tee shirts, and hair accessories. Anything that would fit into a shoe box that you believe a child would like to receive. If you don't want to shop you can donate money for shipping, which is \$7 per box. This is really a wonderful way for us to reach from our doorstep to the ends of the earth! This program has been a very effective way to enable Holy Spirit to change lives and bring souls into the Kingdom Family.

2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE

First Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas, is searching for a paid part time **Contemporary Worship Leader** for our contemporary worship service. This position is and will combine with duties related to that ministry area. This person needs to have a strong faith in Jesus Christ and a passion for leading people in contemporary worship. A background in contemporary praise and worship music is essential. The ability to play an instrument (keyboard or guitar preferred) and put together arrangements to fit both vocalists and instrumentalists is vital. Knowledge of presentation software, Power Church and Power Point, is required. FCC has a well-established volunteer musicians and singers who make up the praise team. Send resume to 1500 N. Mississippi Street, Little Rock, AR 72207; or contact Rev. Leon Gray, phone 501-225-5656.

First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Little Rock, Arkansas has an immediate opening for a paid part time **Director of Music Ministries** who is responsible for Traditional Worship Services weekly, a hand bell choir and an ensemble. This person needs to have a strong faith

in Jesus Christ and a passion for leading people in traditional worship. All serious inquiries are welcomed. Send resume to 1500 N. Mississippi Street, Little Rock, AR 72207; or contact Rev. Leon Gray, phone 501-225-5656.

Pacific Islands Christian Church, Rogers, AR. 479-306-8344. Pastor Sealast Relech.
srelech@yahoo.com.

YOUTH NEWS

(Alisha Gourley, Youth Coordinator, youth@grrdisciples.org)

Snoasis dates are February 26-28, 2016
Camp Couchdale in Hot Springs, AR

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
FCC Mountain Home, AR
Park Hill CC, North Little Rock, AR
FCC Jonesboro, AR

Please send all inquiries to drnburton@grrdisciples.org 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. Graham Riggs: Shreveport, LA	Rev. Russell Myers: Jackson, MS
Rev. Randy Jay: Ft. Smith, AR	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. 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

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

NOTE: **All Churches** in the GRR please send your **Congregational Profiles** to the Regional Office, 9302 Geyer Springs Rd, Little Rock, AR 72209 or tina@grrdisciples.org