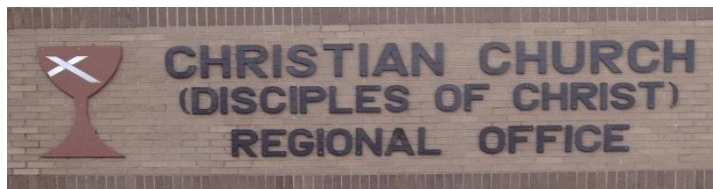




Currents

Great River Region Newsletter

November 13, 2015



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

Email: tina@grrdisciples.org, wendy@grrdisciples.org, and drnburton@grrdisciples.org

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

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

Reminder for **GRR Ministers**: Please send your **Standing Forms** to tina@grrdisciples.org or mail to the Regional office by November 30th. Thank You.



Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton

Interim Executive Regional Minister

I participated in the worship celebration at Cross Street Christian Church (Rev. Robert Palmer, Pastor) this past Sunday, as they celebrated the burning of their mortgage. They originally had mortgage loans: one for \$50,000 and another one for \$150,000. Worship was lively, thankful, and filled with a remarks and worship leadership of a generation celebrating the works of their forebearer's commitment to Cross Street. I preached from Psalm 100, "No One Else, Except God," focused on their shared identity in Christ, gratitude, and thankfulness. I shared with them the unprecedented commitment of an African American congregation who is able to pay off a church mortgage. They presented me with an Arkansas Welcoming Basket and Frame filled with food and literature that represent the culture of Little Rock, AR.

JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

JOYS

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

Rev. Wendell Eugene Tull, 89, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, passed away November 2.

Wendell was a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister for over 40 years.

Churches Wendell served as full-time minister after seminary were:

| | |
|--|----------|
| First Christian, Newkirk, Oklahoma | 4 years |
| First Christian, Ft. Scott, Kansas | 5 years |
| University View Christian, Denver, Colorado | 8 years |
| Village Christian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma | 15 years |
| First Christian, Tulsa, Oklahoma (as Associate Minister) | 9 years |

Wendell retired in 1990 from full time ministry, but served as interim minister during his retirement for:

Lakeshore Drive Christian Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Highlands Christian Church, Bella Vista, Arkansas

Central Christian Church, Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas

First Christian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas

Memorial service will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at First Christian Church, 1806 Central Ave. in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Phillips Theological Seminary online at www.ptstulsa.edu *(Please note it is in memory of Wendell Eugene Tull.)*

Online condolences to family may be recorded at www.caruth-hale.com.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Thank you Veterans!!!

Nov. 15th-21st National Bible Week.

Nov. 26th -27th Regional office closed for Thanksgiving.

Nov. 29th First Sunday in Advent.

Nov. 30th GRR Standing Forms are due in Regional office. tina@grrdisciples.org

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>

New Generation Christian Fellowship, Pascagoula, MS on Nov. 14 @ 10:00am.
The Church is located at 2811 Martin Street.

Real Faith Christian Church, Clarksdale, MS on Nov. 14 @ 1:00pm.
The Church is located at 600 Yazoo Avenue. 38614

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

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.

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.

YOUTH NEWS

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

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

- **Camp:** Created to Be Me Camp @ Camp Christian of Northeast Oklahoma
- *(Formerly known as Eighters Camp)*
- **Camp Dates:** December 27, 2015 - January 2, 2016

- **Eligibility:** Current 8th and 9th Grade
- **Registration:** Available on the website: www.qrrdisciples.org
- **Camp Fee:** \$250 per attendee
- **Registration & Fee Due:** November 20, 2015

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

(Search and Call list is updated weekly and can only be sent to the Committee Chair)

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

The ministry of **Regional Elders** was initiated and commissioned at the 2012 Regional Assembly held at First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Our Regional Elders function much like congregational Elders with shepherding groups, offering pastoral support and friendship to all ministers and their families in the region, as well as support to the Executive Regional Minister.

Below is a list of our Regional Elders, the city and state in which they live and the specific area of the region whose ministers they support:

Regional Elders

Home City & State

Area of Support to Ministers

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rev. Miles Cook | Sherwood, AR | Central Arkansas |
| Rev. Sherry Horton | Tupelo, MS | Northeast MS |
| Rev. Randy Jay | Ft. Smith, AR | Arkansas River Valley |
| Rev. Susan Miller | Hot Springs, AR | Southwest Arkansas |
| Rev. Russell Myers | Jackson, MS | Central Mississippi |
| Rev. Patricia Parker | Itta Bena, MS | Northwest & West Central MS |
| Rev. Ryan Pfeiffer | Fayetteville, AR | Northwest Arkansas |
| Rev. Ann Pickett-Parker | Moss Point, MS | Southeast Mississippi |
| Rev. Graham Riggs | Shreveport, LA | North Louisiana |
| Rev. Glen Schory | Metairie, LA | South Louisiana & South MS |

***** We are currently searching to fill two vacant positions to serve our ministers in Southwest Louisiana and Northeast Arkansas.**

In Christ's service,
Miles Cook, Coordinator, Regional Elders, 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



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

<https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/ThanksgivingOffering>



The Invitation at Christmas is to BELIEVE AGAIN. The Word from the church is to Believe in a Deeper Hope that moves beyond the "wrappings" of Christmas around us.

We proclaim a Hope that brings Good News, Joy and Compassion for all of God's people. THIS DEEPER HOPE IS MADE REAL IN ALL OF OUR REGIONS AS WE:

- Assist congregations and leaders in claiming their unique mission and ministry, and provide resources and support.
- Call, commission and ordain new pastors, and support and equip all pastors for their ministries.
- Revitalize existing congregations and plan for new congregations.
- Connect Regional Disciples to give witness to ministries of justice, hope and compassion.
- Provide camps, conferences and retreats where children and youth find hope and Christ's love and a community of faith that embraces "everyone."
- Make visible the care for all of God's family through ministries of reconciliation and anti-racism.
- Call and equip passionate leaders for today's church.
- Provide pastoral care for clergy and congregations.

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our Region. Your generous gifts make a difference in our shared ministries in the Region.

<https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/ChristmasOffering>

Lexington Theological Seminary is offering a series of webinars for 2015-16 that sound helpful for both clergy and laity. <https://www.lextheo.edu/2015-2016-lts-webinar-series/>

The next one is as follows: **Deacon's Workshop**

Date: November 21, 2015

Where: Online

Time: 1:30 – 3:30pm EST

Presenter: Rev. James Trader

NOTE: Webinar URL will be emailed out the day before the webinar



What does it mean to be a Deacon? How can an energized Diaconate promote congregational vitality? Drawing upon the history of the Diaconate in the Christian Church (DOC) and the New Testament descriptions of the characteristics and duties of Deacons, we will seek to understand some of the historical AND present-day roles of this important lay ministry.

The cost for this webinar is \$10. FCC Fort Smith, Arkansas is planning to show the webinar at the church so that leaders can see it together. Sounds like a good model for these.

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