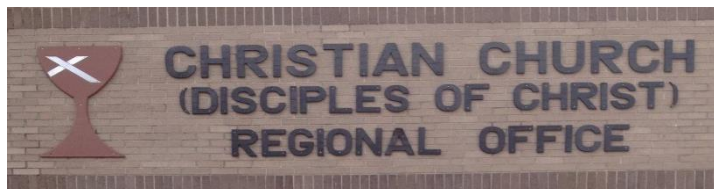




Currents

Great River Region Newsletter

November 25, 2015



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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**. Also **YEARBOOK** forms will be sent out the 1st week in January. Thank You.



Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton

Interim Executive Regional Minister

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
I Thessalonians 5:18

Happy Thanksgiving from the GRR!!!

As we pause over the next couple of days, we give thanks for our lives, families, friends, good company, food, laughter, and good times. I thank God for a Great River Region for receiving me, whose hospitality is contagious, and love that is unconditional. Don't eat too much yall!

Also, I want to invite you to join us at the **Regional Office** for a **"Christmas Open House"** on **Tuesday, December 8** from **12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm**. If you are in the area, stop by to chat and snack, as we celebrate Emmanuel, "God with us" through his son Jesus Christ, and the blessings that await us in the New Year!!!



From Search Committee

The Search Team for the new Executive Regional Minister wants to hear from you - if you've been unable to attend the meetings that have been/are being held around the Region, please click on the following link to share your thoughts and ideas about the Great River Region and the characteristics you think are important in our new Executive Regional Minister - please take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts!

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

Thank you.

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

JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

JOYS

Praise from **Rev. Ryan Pfeiffer, First Christian-Fayetteville, AR**, for an incredibly successful fund raising effort exceeding their goal for mission work in the Congo.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Wendy Paquette, Regional office Administrator, lost her brother, Mr. K.A. Paquette (KAP) in Wisconsin. Cards can be sent to 10805 Breckenridge Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211.

Rev. Tom and Amanda Haley (Antioch Christian in Tull). Tom had a knee replacement yesterday at Saline Memorial Hospital in Benton. His surgeon gave a good report and anticipates Tom being discharged possibly tomorrow.

Rev. Joe and Nancy Jorgensen (First Christian, Benton). Prayers needed for Nancy as she deals with tumor issues. She will begin radiation therapy soon and the possibility of chemotherapy.

Rev. Kevin and Stephanie Robbins (First Christian, Pine Bluff) Prayers needed for personal circumstances.

Rev. Howard Marshall (Retired Minister of First Christian Church, Fort Smith) whose wife, **Jeanette Marshall** died in recent days.

Rev. Dedrick Minor, Chaplain at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, LA, prayer for ministry discernment.

Rev. Glen Schory for back and knee issues and pain involved. Prayers for his medical team through his treatments.

Rev. Ann Pickett-Parker, New Generation Christian Church, for Ann and her husband, James.

Prayers for those in the plane that came down missed crashing into Fayetteville High School. (Updated report is that there were injuries but nothing life threatening).

And prayers needed for the GRR congregations searching for a new minister.

We hold these dear ones in our prayers along with all in our world who have been affected directly and personally through the evil actions and tragedies of the past weeks. May we each pray: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

NEWS AND EVENTS

CHRISTIMAS



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>

Friends,

At our last Central Arkansas Clergy meeting, we decided to promote a mutual emphasis during Advent. Our focus is the **Khayelihle Children’s Village in Zimbabwe**, a wonderful ministry that was brought to our attention at our September meeting when Johnny Wray, former Executive Director of Week of Compassion, introduced B.J. and Chipu Mpofu to us. Our group has decided to work together toward the purchase of a hay cutter and baling machine that will allow the village to purchase, feed, and develop more dairy cattle, helping the village to become self-sufficient. We set our goal at \$20,000, enough to purchase both pieces of equipment. Our hope is that each church will set its own goal toward this total amount, and together we can make a difference for the children of Zimbabwe. The hope is that members of our congregations will feel led to contribute to this goal as an alternative to the commercialized aspect of Advent that seems so prevalent. If Sunday School classes would

adopt this as a project rather than exchanging gifts at their annual holiday parties – if parents would give a “Prepare the Manger” honor gift card in honor of their children’s teachers – if Christmas stockings could contain an honor gift card in place of one other item – our celebration of Christ’s birth would truly honor him in significant ways.

Some of us are working on materials to be distributed to each participating congregation. These will include posters, flyers, bulletin inserts, announcements, and gift cards suitable for giving as honor or memorial gifts. Please alert your congregation to this project and help your church members be ready to participate in this important and worthwhile program when those materials arrive. This is one opportunity for us to bring blessings to those who need our help, those whom Jesus has brought to our attention in such a direct way.

Here is a link to more information about Khayelihle Children’s Village: <https://parkhillchristianchurch.box.com/s/gy4unfgiler7rkym65bnzggkpujo0t4>

Here is another source of information: https://youtu.be/Bz4_VOQbe-4

Blessings, Linda White, Park Hill Christian Church, North Little Rock

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.

Pictures of the Blended Worship Service...Alive and Powerful!

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.grrdisciples.org
 - Camp Fee: \$250 per attendee
 - **Registration & Fee Now Due**
-

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 milescCook@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

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/>

Disciple Summer Mission 2016.

Disciple Summer Mission is a grass roots mission experience. We are excited about Disciple

Summer Mission 2016 and the two trips that are planned to St. Louis and Central Texas.
Rev. Regina Attaway

Six years of Disciple Summer Mission will commence this summer. The trip that has gathered over 500 youth and adults this past summer, started with a simple trip started by four youth minister friends. These four friends started with wanting to gather their youth together to do a mission trip together.

In 2011, 80 youth and adults gathered in Midland, Texas to help rehabilitate houses, and spend time with the elderly and the young. This trip grew to 140 youth and adults in 2012 when the trip moved to Northwest Arkansas. This trip also included experiencing and joining the rebuilding efforts of Joplin, Missouri.

In 2013, 326 youth and adults traveled to New Orleans with Disciple Summer Mission. We painted, put insulation and drywall into homes that were still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. The summer of 2014, the leadership team made the decision to paint the town in Oklahoma City with 350 youth and adults from 28 churches in 7 states. We were able to paint the exterior of 30 homes.

The summer of 2015, was a big step for Disciple Summer Mission in planting two trips in different locations. The leadership team did a trip in Albuquerque, New Mexico and another trip in Nashville, Tennessee with a combined 520 youth and adults. Community organizations were the focus of both trips in helping in community gardens, food banks and worked with multiple organizations that help men and women in recovery and children in impoverished communities.

The leadership team has grown over the last few years and the team is excited to announce that there will be two trips in the summer of 2016.

The locations for the trips will be St. Louis, Missouri and central Texas. Each location will accept 300 youth and adults per trips. The St. Louis trip will be Monday, June 27- Friday, July 1, 2016. The central Texas trip will be Monday, July 4-Friday July 8, 2016. Cost will be \$275 per person. The deadline to reserve spots by filling out the online group registration form is March 1st and a deposit of \$75 per person is due at this time. The remaining balance and individual online forms are due on May 1st. The St. Louis trip's contact person is Jessie Gray and she can be contacted at (501)993-8263. The contact person for the central Texas trip is Alex Smith and she can be contacted at (512)971-9411. If you need further information, please go to our new website at: www.disciplesummermission.wordpress.com

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