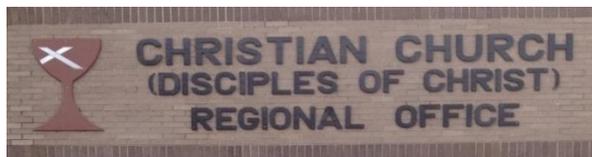




Currents

Great River Region Newsletter

December 16, 2015



9302 Geyer Springs Rd, Little Rock, AR 72209

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

Email: tina@grrdisciples.org, wendy@grrdisciples.org, youth@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.

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



Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton

Interim Executive Regional Minister

This past Sunday at Parkview Christian Church in Little Rock, I shared the story of the birth of three young boys. The first boy was born at a checkpoint in Palestine. His mother was refused entrance my Militia, to go into the city to the hospital to give birth. She gave birth at the Checkpoint. Because of her despair, she named her son, in Aramaic "Mashunn" or "Checkpoint."

The second child was born during the turmoil of war according to I Samuel 4:19-22. Phinehas' wife went into labor after hearing that the Ark of the Covenant been captured by the Philistines, and that her husband and father-in-law were dead. When the midwives told her that she had a son, she did not regard it. Before her death, she named her son, "Ichabod," meaning the glory has departed from Israel.

The third child was born in a stable because there was no room in the city of Bethlehem. Joseph was instructed in a dream to name his son, "Jesus" as he received a revelation that he would save people from their sins. Mary cried, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47).

As we await the coming of Christmas, my prayer is that we would remember children born into oppression, despair, and darkness in our communities, and all over the world. A baby born in a stable, to give us hope, life, and the glory of the Father. But even more than that, God gives us His "presence."

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!

Funeral Services for Elder Patricia Parker

Pastor of East Percy Christian Church in Greenwood, Mississippi

Elder Parker, 52, of Itta Bena, passed away on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at her Residence surrounded by her Family.

The viewing will be Friday, December 18th, at East Percy Street CC from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. (100 E. Percy Street, Greenwood, MS 38930, 662-453-0763)

The service will be Saturday, December 19th 11:00am at New Green Grove Church of Faith with Bishop Milton Glass. (3001 Browning Rd, Greenwood, MS) Dr. Nadine Burton will have words of expression from the Region and Dr. Robin Hedgemen will be doing the Eulogy.



Roberts and Sons Mortuary

P.O. Box 28 524 Greensboro St

Winona, MS 38967

Tel: 1-662-283-3414, Email robertswinona@att.net

JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

JOYS

Congratulations to **Barrett Baber**! One of the 4 finalists on the show "The Voice". Barrett is the Music Leader at Millwood Christian Church in Rogers, Arkansas.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Rev. Joe and Nancy Jorgensen (First Christian-Benton, Arkansas) as Nancy going through chemotherapy and radiation for cancer

Rev. Linda Kline (retired Chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital in Little Rock) who is recovering from outpatient eye surgery

The Parker Family upon the recent death of Rev. Patricia Parker (East Percy Street Christian Church in Greenwood, Mississippi)

Rev. Holly Patton (Little Rock, Arkansas) for continued healing

Rev. Kevin and Stephanie Robbins (First Christian-Pine Bluff, Arkansas) Personal Circumstances

Rev. Tom and Amanda Haley (Antioch Christian-Tull, Arkansas) as Tom continues to recover from a knee replacement.

NEWS AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS



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 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 Mpfu 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/gy4unfgiler7rkkym65bnzggkpujo0t4>
Here is another source of information: https://youtu.be/Bz4_VOQbe-4

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

YOUTH NEWS

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

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

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

Congregations in Pastoral Search and Call:

FCC Blytheville, AR: assoc. pastor with potential to become senior pastor
FCC Hammond, LA
FCC Jonesboro, AR
FCC Mountain Home, AR
FCC Stuttgart, AR: part/full time pastor
Park Hill CC, North Little Rock, AR

(the 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. 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
Rev. Lucian Lee	Camden, Arkansas	Northeast Arkansas
Rev. Ashley Sherard	Lafayette, Louisiana	Southwest Louisiana

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

Six years of Disciple Summer Mission will commence this summer.

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 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 Central Texas contact person 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



National **Benevolent** Association

JOB DESCRIPTION. Program Associate – Incubate Initiative -- .50 FTE

<http://www.nbaca.org/career-opportunities>

Job Title: Program Associate – Incubate Initiative

Reports to: Director of NBA Incubate Initiative

Effective Date: March 1, 2016 (or earlier, if possible)

Prepared By: Ayanna Johnson Watkins, Director of NBA Incubate Initiative

Position Summary:

Through the Incubator Initiative, the NBA partners with Disciples-related health and social service projects/ministries to assist them as they navigate the complex landscape of new project start-ups. Reporting to the Director of the NBA Incubate Initiative, the Program Associate will support the work of the Incubate Initiative, broaden the reach of the Incubate Initiative across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), help build the network of professionals who will help support the Incubate Affiliated Ministries, and help share the ministry of the Incubate Initiative and its Affiliated Ministries with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and beyond. This is a .50 FTE (full-time equivalent) position in which the Program Associate will be expected to work

approximately 20 hours per week. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. The end date for this position is December 31, 2017, with possible renewal.

Interested Persons should send **a resume and cover letter** to:

Dani Loving Cartwright, AVP Operations, dcartwright@nbacares.org

DEADLINE: January 15, 2016

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 by email.