



Currents

Great River Region Newsletter

January 15, 2016

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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

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As we begin this new year, I pray that there will be new commitments to transform lives through the gospel of Jesus Christ. First that commitment starts within each of us. Romans 12:1-2 reminds us to ***“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*** In this new year, let’s renew our worship and service to God in transforming ways that keeps us searching for that good, pleasing, and perfect will of God!

Please pray for our first Regional Board Meeting to be held next weekend at FCC in Monroe, LA. We will gather to participate in worshipful work, as we continue in this journey of transition.

It’s a Regional Assembly Year! Our Regional Assembly is scheduled for November 4-6, 2016 at Northside CC in West Point, MS. On January 8, I met with Orlando Richmond, Pastor of Northside CC, to make introductions and lay out the ground work for this life changing experience. We need to get busy with a theme, speakers, workshop topics, and youth and children activities. We are looking for volunteers to work on the planning team. If you are interested, please contact the regional office and give Tina your name and contact information.

Last Fall, I signed the GRR up to host the ***Mission First Initiative*** in 2016. We are organizing a team of people to organize and facilitate the sessions this summer. The plan is to complete the sessions and reporting to the Mission Council by the end of the summer. If you are interested in working on the planning team, or your church is willing to host a session, please contact the Regional Office. The flyer for Mission First is listed below and will give you more information about this the vision for this initiative.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28)

JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

JOYS

Congratulations to **Rev. Will Feland** (Cabot, AR) in the joy of new granddaughter, Annelise Ruth Bard

PRAYER CONCERNS

Rev. Donald Warren (Pine Bluff, AR) and wife Harriett upon the recent death of Harriett's sister.

Rev. Joe Jorgensen (Benton, AR) and wife Nancy as Nancy continues treatments for cancer.

Rev. Robert Brown (Little Rock, AR) who was recently hospitalized and is at home recovering.

Rev. Sara Rudolph-Pollard (North Little Rock, AR) home recovering from recent foot surgery.

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

Rev. Kevin and Stephanie Robbins (Pine Bluff, AR) for personal circumstances.

Rev. Linda Kline (Central AR) recent cataract surgery.

Rev. Miles and Trela Cook (Sherwood, AR) daughter, Laura, treatments for cancer

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Reminder: Churches please return your YEARBOOK forms to the Regional office or you can Submit Online.

Louisiana Disciples Clergy Fellowship/Gathering on January 16th at 11:00am at Jerusalem Christian Church. 108 Republic Avenue, Suite F, Lafayette, LA 70508. 337-781-6652.

Rev. Ashley Sherard, Pastor. Please contact Pastor Sherard for more information! 337-739-0871.

The Great River Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

AND

First Christian Church (DOC) of Sulphur, Louisiana

CORDIALLY INVITE YOUR PRESENCE AND PRAYERS

FOR THE ORDINATION TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY OF

Roberta (Bobbie) Kim Taylor Yellott

ON SUNDAY, **JANUARY 17** AT 3:00 P.M.

1401 ARGIN STREET, SULPHUR, LA 70663

Reception/Meal at the church following the service

RSVP 337-527-8439 or firstchristiansulphur@yahoo.com

Clergy: Please wear your normal liturgical attire. Red stoles are appropriate.

First Christian Church Rogers, AR. 905 S. 13th Street, 479-636-2230.



Dear friends, It's that time of year again, already!!

We are seeking to get our **Summer Ministry Intern** application packet out and into the hands of some very promising college-aged or post-graduate folks who are considering a potential calling to the ministry. We've been blessed with tremendous interns over the past four years (all in seminary or soon-to-be) and are looking forward to another one this summer. Please pass this along to anyone you think might be interested. **The application deadline is February 24.** I plan to be at TCU/Brite Minister's Week in Fort Worth (February 15-18) and would love the opportunity to meet with any potential candidates that are in the area at that time. Feel free to email or call me **(817-271-7068)** with any questions. Thank you so much for your help! Blessings!

Shawn Wallace, Senior Pastor



Mission First! addresses the need to find a new shared focus in what God is doing in the world through Disciples of Christ. We are not setting aside pro-reconciliation/anti-racism,

new and transforming churches or leadership development.

Mission First! seeks to help Disciples identify the next mission priorities God has for us as we move toward the year 2020 and beyond.

[Read About the Process](#) . [What you can do now](#)

Get ready to put mission first!

There are a number of ways you can get ready for the Mission Gathering you will be attending this year. The first is prayer - prayer that the Holy Spirit infuse the discussions, prayer that participants come with open hearts, prayer that God will indeed gift us with the vision we need.

You can also do some studying and thinking about how we show God's love and become a "movement for wholeness." Some of the free resources readily available for download include:

- [Studies](#) based on the Disciples of Christ identity statement
- the [Justice Primer](#) and [Devotion to Justice](#) publications
- [REACH curriculum](#) from Global Ministries

The Mission First! Implementation Team has been hard at work testing and re-testing the model for [Mission Gatherings](#). A toolkit for organizers is nearly complete and the first Mission Gathering will be Jan. 21 at the Disciples Women Leadership Council. Please keep the Church, the gathering hosts and participants and the implementation team in prayer. If you haven't yet signed up for the weekly prayer prompts for Mission First! you can do so on the [website](#).

Get re-inspired. You can watch (or share) General Minister and President Sharon Watkins' address from the 2015 General Assembly.

[Link to Video](#)

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



Cherilyn Williams, APR, Cell 253.683.1883 | Voice mailbox 317.713.2496
PO Box 1986 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 ~ cwilliams@disciples.org, Website: www.disciples.org
We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one Body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. — Disciples Identity Statement

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)

YOUTH NEWS

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

• Snoasis CYF Retreat 2016 @ Camp Couchdale

- Camp Dates: February 26 – 28, 2016
- Eligibility: Current 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Grade
- Registration: Available online at www.grrdisciples.org/youth
- Camp Fee: \$125 per attendee by February 1
- Late Fee: \$25 per attendee post February 1 (\$150 total)
- **Registration & Fee Due: February 1, 2016**

[SNOASIS Registration form for YOUTH](#)

[SNOASIS Registration form for ADULTS](#)

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

Are you interested in Stewardship Education? Do you have a passion for the discipline of stewardship? If so, The GRR would like to encourage your participation in "Stepping into Stewardship," March 30th-April 1,2016, in Orlando FL, sponsored by the United Church of Christ and the Center for Faith and Giving. For more information, follow the link, www.disciples.org/stepping-into-stewardship.

SUMMARY of all GRR Info Gathering by Search Team

The summary of information gathered in the listening sessions held by the Settled Regional Executive Minister Search Team during the month of November is available on the homepage of the GRR Website: www.grrdisciples.org

REGIONAL ELDERS

The ministry of 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.

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.

Concern: "We seem to be unable to 'fill' all the positions to run the church. What can we do?"
 "How can we organize the church to better meet the mission and vision of our congregation?"
 "What are the responsibilities of board members?"

GOVERNANCE OF THE CONGREGATION

January 23, 2016
 First Christian Church
 1314 Oak Ridge Dr.
 Neosho, MO
 10:30am-2:00pm

January 24, 2016
 First Christian Church
 101 N 10th St.
 Columbia, MO
 2:00pm-5:00pm



Presentation by Rev. Dr. Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (DOC) in the United States and Canada. Adams' presentation will focus on the Ten Responsibilities of a Non-Profit Governance Board and Three Duties each board member must demonstrate. Adams is a Certified Governance Trainer for Board Source, a leading non-profit consulting and research organization. Our time together will examine best practices by the board including finance, executive evaluation, and outcomes based leadership.

Register by January 18. Send registration to Christian Church in Mid-America, Southwest Office, 500 South St, Springfield Mo 65806, 417-865-0850 or olaccma@sbcglobal.net
 Cost: Neosho... \$15.00 includes lunch - Columbia... \$10.00 (**PAY AT THE DOOR**)

Mid-America Center for Ministry.

Below is a schedule of courses for 2016. Additional information will be added for each class as they become available. Please note some courses may require prerequisites. Click here for the program flyer for dates and instructors: [CPM Brochure](#)

Introduction to Mid-Am Center for Ministry	January 5 to February 1, 2016
Utilizing Conflict	February 2-29, 2016
Introduction to the Old Testament	January 5 to February 29, 2016
Stewardship	January 5 to February 29, 2016
Overview of the Bible	March 1 to April 25, 2016
Evangelism	March 1 to April 25, 2016
Education and Leader Development	March 1 to April 25, 2016

Mission of the Church	April 26 to June 20, 2016
History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ	April 26 to June 20, 2016
http://center4ministry.org/history-and-polity-of-the-disciples-of-christ/	
History and Polity of the United Church of Christ	June 21 to August 15, 2016
Communication	June 21 to August 15, 2016
Spiritual Development	June 21 to August 15, 2016
Proclamation of the Word**	August 16 to October 10, 2016
Worship	August 16 to October 10, 2016
Overview of the Bible	August 16 to October 10, 2016
Introduction to Mid-Am Center for Ministry	August 16 to September 12, 2016
Ecumenism	September 13 to October 10, 2016
History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ	October 11 to December 6, 2016
Administration and Planning***	October 11 to December 6, 2016
Introduction to the New Testament	October 11 to December 6, 2016
Christian Ethics	October 14 to December 6, 2016

* Prerequisite: Overview of the Bible

** Prerequisites: Overview of the Bible and either Introduction to the Old or New Testament

*** Prerequisite: Pastoral Leadership



The Rev. Patricia Ann Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund is established to honor Elder Parker's legacy and passion for youth development and education for East Percy Street CC high school students entering college and/or seminary.

Please send donations to:
Christian Church Foundation

P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46202-1986. (800) 668-8016



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.