



# Currents

Great River Region Newsletter

January 29, 2016

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

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

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## Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton

Interim Executive Regional Minister

*I beseech you therefore, my brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:1-2).* I made it through my very first Regional Board Meeting, despite the challenges with our mini snow storm last weekend. We met at FCC, Monroe, and others called in via telephone conference. We approved the Regional Profile and the Settled Regional Minister's job description. The official posting will go out to all Regions and Disciples Communication media outlets to be promoted throughout the denomination. We also received ministry reports, reviewed board governance principles, focused on developing stronger governance practices. We also approved a proposal to contract OGMP Treasury Services to work with our financial and accounting systems. There is a lot going on in the GRR!!!

The focus groups led by Jennie Gregory and the Search Committee are actually a good governance practice: listening to your 'owners' or stakeholders.

We are still working on a theme for Regional Assembly, however we are close with ***"There is a River: Transforming Churches."*** There is a River (Psalm 46:4), who streams will make joyful the city of God, as we are open to transforming churches, individually and collectively (Romans 12:1-2). The dates are November 4-6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Northside Christian Church in West Point, Mississippi.

We are still looking for volunteers to work with the ***Regional Assembly*** and ***Mission First Initiative*** in 2016. If you are interested in working on either of these planning team, please contact the Regional Office. You can also volunteer your church as a host site for Mission First. *(The flyer for Mission First is listed below and will give you more information about the vision for this initiative).*

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## JOYS and PRAYER CONCERNS

### JOYS

First Christian Church Jonesboro, AR, Welcomes **Interim Minister Dr. Mike Hamilton!** His first Sunday will be February 7th.

**Rev. Susan Miller** will be Installed as Minister of Pulaski Heights Christian Church in Little Rock, AR on February 14, 10:30 a.m.

### 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. Carol Miles** (Cross Street CC) in Little Rock, recovering from surgery a few months ago.

**Rev. Rita Richardson** family, Central Christian in Russellville, AR, health issues.

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

**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

The family of **Rev. Dr. Bill Wayne** former Pastor of FCC Lafayette and member of Jerusalem Christian who passed away January 20 after a long battle with Parkinson's.

The family of **Jeffrey Robinson** long time Board Moderator of FCC Lafayette and member of Jerusalem Christian who passed away unexpectedly from Septic Shock on December 29.

The family of **Rev. Ashley Sherard** at the loss of her grandfather, Theodore Conroy, on January 1.

**Rev. Frank Sherard** ministry support at Jerusalem Christian Church, continued effects from Epilepsy.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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

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### Installation.

Please join us at **Pulaski Heights Christian Church (DOC)** for the Installation of our new Pastor, Rev. Susan Miller. Sunday, February 14 @ 10:30am. Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Interim Regional Minister will bring our message. If you can't make the service please join us for the reception following the service, 4724 Hillcrest Ave, Little Rock, AR. 501-663-8149.

[www.phcc-lr.org](http://www.phcc-lr.org) or [lrphcc@gmail.com](mailto:lrphcc@gmail.com).

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Grace Disciples of Christ Church  
975 Hwy190 East Service Rd.  
Covington, LA  
985-867-5234



## Church Sale

We wanted you to be the first to know  
We're selling our building and stuff has to go.  
So bring your truck or your van  
Come load up what you can.  
Time is short, so do not tarry  
But keep in mind it is **cash and carry**  
A love offering is what we ask indeed  
Unless you are a church or charity in need

Some items for sale include:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Sanctuary podium, chairs                             | Communion Table     |
| Banners/wall hangings/art                            | Washer/dryer        |
| Microphones/music stands                             | Grandfather clock   |
| Bibles, hymnals/other books                          | Sofas/tables/chairs |
| Refrigerators/upright freezer                        | Children's toys     |
| Outdoor furniture                                    | lawnmower/tools     |
| Office equipment: phones/fax machine/folding machine |                     |

The church will be open for your visit on Friday  
and Saturday, February 12 & 13 and 19 & 20  
from 10AM – 3 PM

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**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](mailto:cwilliams@disciples.org), Website: [www.disciples.org](http://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*

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## 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)*

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## YOUTH NEWS

*Alisha Gourley, Youth Coordinator*

[youth@qrrdisciples.org](mailto:youth@qrrdisciples.org) or [alisha.j.gourley@gmail.com](mailto:alisha.j.gourley@gmail.com)

- **Snoasis CYF Retreat 2016 @ Camp Couchdale**

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup>  
**and a deposit of \$75 per person is due at this time.**

The remaining balance and individual online forms are due on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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](http://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 30<sup>th</sup>-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](http://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](http://www.grrdisciples.org)

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## 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](mailto:milescook@outlook.com).

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## ***46th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference!***

All events of the **46th Annual Assembly** will take place on the campus at Peaceful Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA, on March 7th & 8th, 2016 (noon to noon). The working theme of the Assembly is: "***The Church, Social Justice and Racial Reconciliation***".

The Monday evening Ecumenical Worship Service will be held in the sanctuary of **Peaceful Rest Missionary Baptist Church**. The **Rev. Dr. C. S. Gordon, Jr.**, President of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention, will preach the sermon. The service will include installation of new and re-elected officers including the incoming President, the Rev. Dr. C. S. Gordon. We offer our appreciation to the Rev. Dr. R. Timothy Jones, Sr., as our hosting pastor.

The **registration fee**: is \$100.00 per person (which includes lunch and dinner Monday, and snacks on Monday & Tuesday). **Lodging is a separate cost**: The LIC has reserved a block of rooms at the Wyndham Garden Shreveport, 1419 E 70th St. Shreveport, LA 71105. Lodging rates are \$97.00 for a King room or a Double Queen room, and includes breakfast for up to 2 lodgers per room. Reservations are to be made individually by calling 318.797.9900 or 877.999.3223. **The cutoff date for the discounted hotel reservation rate is Feb. 20, 2016.**



CU @ DU

February 19-20

Are you looking for a university that offers a high quality education at an affordable price? Would you like to attend a school where you work closely with faculty? Does a higher education experience that reflects your own faith tradition sound appealing?

If so, please join us on Friday and Saturday, February 19-20, for Homecoming Weekend and an exciting set of events designed especially for prospective students in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

To register, ask your church youth leader to sign you up at <http://goo.gl/forms/D0XvwHi1ji> by Thursday, February 11.

Weekend Schedule:

Friday, February 19, 2016

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 5:30-6 p.m. | Registration (Findlay Student Center (FSC) - lower level)                                     |
| 6-7 p.m.    | Dinner (FSC Ballroom)   |
| 7-8 p.m.    | Homecoming pre-concert (O'Reilly)   |
| 8-10 p.m.   | "The Oh Hello's" concert (O'Reilly)   |
| 10-11 p.m.  | Fun and games (FSC Ballroom)  |
| 11 p.m.     | Sleep at area churches (National Avenue Christian Church, Central Christian & St. John's UCC) |

Saturday, February 20, 2016

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:30-9 a.m.     | Breakfast (at area churches)                      |
| 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Community service                                 |
| 12-1 p.m.       | Pizza lunch (FSC, Room 204)                       |
| 1-2 p.m.        | Worship time (Wash Ave Church - Diversity Center) |
| 2-3 p.m.        | Campus tour (Admissions Office-Bay Hall)          |
| 3:15 p.m.       | Basketball game (O'Reilly)                        |

Cost: \$20.00 (Covers meals, concert, lodging and game)  
Checks may be written to "Drury University."

Please send to:

Chaplain's Office  
Drury University  
900 N. Benton Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65802

For questions, contact Chaplain Peter Browning  
[pbrowning@drury.edu](mailto:pbrowning@drury.edu) | (417) 873-7231

DRURY UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDED 1873

**Drury University** is a private liberal arts university located in Springfield, Missouri, offering more than 70 undergraduate & graduate programs. [www.drury.edu/](http://www.drury.edu/)

**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](#)  
[Utilizing Conflict](#)  
[Introduction to the Old Testament](#)  
[Stewardship](#)  
[Overview of the Bible](#)  
[Evangelism](#)  
[Education and Leader Development](#)  
[Mission of the Church](#)

January 5 to February 1, 2016  
February 2-29, 2016  
January 5 to February 29, 2016  
January 5 to February 29, 2016  
March 1 to April 25, 2016  
March 1 to April 25, 2016  
March 1 to April 25, 2016  
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@grdisciples.org](mailto:tina@grdisciples.org). Thank you.