



The Disciples' Advocate

Published by Disciples
Home Missions



Wings of Hope

Arlington – Oso – Darrington; “We Git-R-Done!” Logger Strong; Wings of Hope 3-22-14; Support Victims & Volunteers, Hwy 530 Mudslide; Small Town Proud/ Family Strong

Designed by a local resident and business owner in Darrington, these are the words in black on neon yellow t-shirts. The design includes images of an axe, depicting the logging industry, angel wings representing hope and courage and a ribbon bearing the date of the fateful event, the Highway 530 Mudslide.

One disaster affected three distinct but connected communities. The response upon hearing the news of the slide on that rainy March morning was unprecedented. The locals are the experts when it comes to navigating the mud and terrain where their friends, neighbors and loved ones lived. The Fire Chief in Darrington told state and county officials they either needed to let

50 of the locals get out there and do their thing with their equipment or they would have to hire 50 Deputy Sheriffs to deal with them. Officials listened and realized the process of search and rescue needed to include families, neighbors and friends along with professionals.

Dave Holmer, Darrington School District Superintendent said, “This community has come together. Always does in tough times. That’s the way it’s done here. People are not expected to go through this alone.” Some felt intruded upon by the media and all the people from various agencies and the greater community. Building trust and providing spiritual support, was my assignment by the American Red Cross.

Mayor Dan Rankin of Darrington, offers strong leadership to his townsfolk as he grieves along with them and invites them to move forward. At a town meeting Rankin asked people to take note of some of the positive things that have been happening during a dark time—like a yield of fresh mushrooms from the past weekend. “It’s not the big things,” Rankin said. “It’s the little things that are going to hold us together as a community.” Then he read the names of those whose bodies had been recovered in the past few days. A moment of silence followed. A local clergywoman,



A Chaplain from the Washington State Patrol walks with his arm around Snohomish County battalion chief Steve Mason near the scene of the Mudslide. (Associated Press photo)

Our Disciples Chaplains: On the Front Line of Caring

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Have you considered making a gift to
Disciples Home Missions
in your will?

If so, please contact Rev. Ron Degges
at (317) 713-2684.

**Next Issue's
COPY
DEADLINE**



June 16, 2014

Continued on page 10. See Hope.

A Word or Two from Ron Degges

In this issue of The Disciples' Advocate we lift up the varieties of ministries performed by our Disciples Chaplains. Whether in a foxhole in Afghanistan, a prison cell in Memphis, a halfway house in California, a hospital in North Carolina, an airport in Atlanta, an industrial company in Michigan, a police department in Indiana, a rehabilitation and recovery center in Texas, a nursing and retirement home in Kansas, a college in West Virginia, a mental health facility in Washington, D.C., and in many additional locations, we find dedicated individuals called to serve as chaplains. Each day these gifted and talented individuals are living and writing the future chapters in the field of pastoral care.

Ernest E. Bruder in his classic text, *Ministering to Deeply Troubled People*, writes: "... I am increasingly more confident that what we in the Church have to offer – our faith and practice – not only has relevance for all time, but is desperately needed in our time ... When one dares to trust the Gospel to the extent that one descends into the hell which life often is, one cannot escape finding his way to God Himself."

Bruder's words were first penned fifty years ago, at a time when inclusive language was not on the theological radar, and at the place where I received my training in Clinical Pastoral Education. He would further write:

"Perhaps we have a special interpretation as to the meaning of being a real person, but here again we agree: to us it means 'being able to allow a little of the loneliness which is me to meet the loneliness which is you.'"

Our chaplains place their whole selves in service to communities mostly beyond the walls of our congregations. They are endorsed in behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Chaplaincy Office housed here at Disciples Home Missions. They are nurtured and supported by our denominational Chaplaincy Endorsement Officer, Steve Doan, and Ministry Associate, Anne Marie Moyars, employees of Disciples Home Missions. They are woven together by a monthly publication entitled, *Chaplaincy News & Notes*, an electronic copy which can be yours by subscribing at: www.discipleshomemissions.org.

I invite you to join me and the whole of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in honoring these women and men who are truly rooted in the being of God and whose lives are testaments to some of the best ministry taking place in our world today.

Thanking you who serve as Chaplains, I am

Respectfully yours,

Ron



Ronald J. Degges

In the Mail

I am writing to thank you for your very generous gift of \$500.00. Here at Exodus we are so grateful for the strong support of organizations like yours.

Refugees come to Indianapolis from many different countries, cultures, and experiences. They arrive in our city with few possessions but with hope and eagerness to work hard, rebuild their lives in safety and freedom, and achieve self-sufficiency. Your donation enables us to continue our mission to serve and empower refugees here in Indianapolis. We couldn't do it without you.

This year Exodus has welcomed 859 new

refugees from countries such as Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Bhutan, Somalia, and Eritrea. Your gift will directly impact the lives of these courageous individuals as they arrive and adjust to their new home in Indianapolis.

We deeply appreciate your generosity. Thank you so much for your gift!

Sincerely,

Carleen Miller, Executive Director
Exodus Refugee
Indianapolis, Indiana

In the Mail

I read with interest the "Disciples Advocate" Spring 2014 with the emphasis on ministry by, with, for, and to seniors.

For a number of years, my husband, Dr. Donald F. Clingan worked for the Department of Homeland Ministries, National Benevolent Association and Christian Theological Seminary to develop a program of Ministry with the Aging. The program was closed in 1984 due to a lack of funding.

Don was a delegate to three of the White House Conferences on Aging. In response to one of these conferences Don and Dr. Roger Carstensen (another Disciples of Christ minister) presided over a group which became the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging.

As a part of his work, Don wrote a number of articles and books as guides for local churches. The most popular one was "Aging: God's Challenge to Church and Synagogue" co-authored with Richard Gentzler of the United Methodist Church.

I hope that Don's work has provided some bases for a continuing ministry with the aging in this 21st Century.

*Jacqueline (Jacquie) Clingan
from Ohio*

*For information about The Interfaith
Conference on Aging, visit: [www.
marquette.edu/library/archives/Mss/
NICA/NICA-sc.shtml](http://www.marquette.edu/library/archives/Mss/NICA/NICA-sc.shtml)*

Thank you so much for the support for me to attend the Disciples Youth Ministry Network Conference, it was a great event that challenged and nurtured my ministry. Kenda Creasy-Dean was a fabulous speaker and the other ministers present were a blessing. Than you for making these funds available to those who really need them.

Peace,

*Chad Snellgrove
Lexington Kentucky*

We sincerely thank you for your donation to the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in the amount of \$1,000.00. The spirit of giving demonstrated in our efforts to continue helping the needy and the "least of these" has been tremendous.

You have been an "angel" for our ministry that serves hundreds of displaced persons and "the poorest of the poor" in this part of the country. May your gift be returned to you in the form of God's abundant blessings!

We pray God's richest blessings to you and your family, may His spirit continue to lead you in His peace. Thank you again for your well-timed generosity.

In God's Service,

*F. Feliberto Pereira, Director
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries*

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$1,000.00 to help support the needs of a refugee family. The family has benefited from your kindness and understanding of their plight.

Our refugees come from all over the world fleeing their home country because of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Through a cooperative agreement Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (IRIS) has with the United States Department of State and its three national affiliates: Episcopal Migration Ministries, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Church World Service, helped nearly 7,000 refugees resettle and start new lives in the greater Los Angeles area. Such a tremendous undertaking could not be accomplished without your help. As long as the crisis for refugees persists, IRIS will continue, with your help, to welcome the stranger.

Thank you for your time, donation and support in sharing the journey with all who seek safety and security within our borders.

This comes with our prayers and best wishes for you and your family.

Yours Sincerely,

*Megham Tumilty, Executive Director and Debbie
Decker, Community Resource Developer
Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service
Los Angeles, California*

Clinical Chaplain Takes “Faith in Practice” Mission Trip to Guatemala

As the Clinical Chaplain at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, in Hood River, Ore., I do what most health care



Photo provided Rev. Maggie Sebastain.

chaplains do in caring for patients and staff. Recently, however, my role as a health care professional broadened. I participated in a Providence Health International/Faith in Practice surgical mission trip to Hospital Hilario Galindo in Retalhuelu, Guatemala. After spending three weeks in language immersion in Quetzaltenango, I joined the mission team in Antigua before traveling to Reu. We provided services for 66 patients, performing 88 procedures in four days after our initial triage. My Spanish comfort level was stretched as I assisted medical

personnel in caring for patients. When things got complicated, I was able to rely on our translators to communicate difficult emotional/spiritual needs. Everyone was so gracious, gently correcting my Spanish and only giggling sometimes.

Many of the people we served traveled great distances to receive care. One patient seemed perturbed when told he needed to spend the night after his surgery and not walk the 8 miles back to his house. As I prayed with people, they joined me in prayer asking for God's blessing on me and the rest of the team. It was humbling and holy. It surprised me how many patients wanted their photos taken with me and other team members. Their surgery was often a life-changing event – relief from a



Photo provided Rev. Maggie Sebastain.



Photo provided Rev. Maggie Sebastain.

hernia of 10 years or a fibroid tumor the size of a cantaloupe – and they wanted it documented.

The week was highlighted by Ash Wednesday. I find Ash Wednesday an intimate encounter, and it was especially so with the team, patients, and families at Hilario Galindo. I treasure the blessing I received as chaplain in Guatemala and hope to join another team in the future.

Rev. Maggie Sebastian, Clinical Chaplain, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital and Coordinator, Emergency Voucher Program of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries Hood River, Oregon



Chaplain Serves Both God and Country

For more than 38 years, Dr. Steve Chisolm, Co-Pastor of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dallas, has served both God and country.

Along the way, he has earned a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a Doctor of Ministry from renowned institutions such as Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Fort Worth, Texas.

The father of three married daughters, four grandchildren, and a joint pastoral ministry with his wife, Dr. Debbie Chisolm, Steve Chisolm is a very busy man.

Today, as Director of the Air National Guard Chaplain Corps at Joint Base Andrews, Naval Air Facility Washington—as a Chaplain and a Colonel—he advises on all matters pertaining to the religious and moral welfare of the Air National Guard while leading more than 600 Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants assigned to Air National Guard Wings across the 54 states and territories.

An active member of the Air National Guard for over 38 years, Dr. Chisolm has demonstrated unwavering devotion to his nation, to his faith, and to the religious welfare of all Air National Guard members.

He has served in a diverse range of capacities—including Administration Officer, Commander, and Chaplain—within the 186th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Air Refueling Wing, and 136th Airlift Wing. In 2009, he gained the title of Air National Guard Assistant to the Command Chaplain at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. From there, Chaplain Chisolm quickly climbed the ranks, first serving as Assistant to the Commandant at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and then as Deputy Director of the Chaplain Corps before achieving his current rank.

Chaplain, Colonel Chisolm ensures the free exercise of religion within the Air National Guard. With a staff of eight Chaplain Corps Personnel, his team provides training for response to natural and human-induced domestic crises, as well as relationship enrichment programs for singles and couples through the Air National Guard Strong Bonds program. Chaplain Chisolm has received over 25 awards throughout his career and affiliates with four major military associations.

Chris Kelley is a Dallas writer and communications chair for the North Texas area board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Chaplain, Colonel
Steve Chisolm
United States Air Force



Association of Disciple Musicians
2014 Conference for Music & Worship

Central Christian Church, Decatur, IL
Sunday, July 13 through Friday, July 18, 2014

Top clinicians and concert artists featured at this 53rd Annual Conference include:

				
WORSHIP Michael Karunas Senior Pastor Central Christian Church	CHORAL Brad Holmes Director of Choir Programs Millikin University	ORGAN Bruce Neswick Organ Faculty Indiana University	HANDBELLS Janet Van Valey Director of the Kalamazoo Ringers	JAZZ WORSHIP Jane Hartman Jazz Pianist Springfield, Illinois

More information and registration at www.adm-doc.org.

Contemporary Music Supporting Liturgical Worship? (How Songsforsermons.org came to be)

Raised Southern Baptist, and a long-time music director in the independent Christian Church, Tim Harper was relieved and energized by discovering the Disciples.

"What I fear many Disciples take for granted, I continue to see as a unique and vital message for our culture; that of tolerance and a more thorough sweep of the gospel message," he said.

He found supporting that message with contemporary music was a huge challenge. "As a worship leader I listened to ministers complain about the narrow topics covered by contemporary music and hymns. I always did what I suspect most people do - I took the easy way out and used the materials that were popular and readily available."

But ministry staff at Beargrass Christian Church in Louisville, Ky., encouraged broader themes be covered musically, and language concerns be addressed as well.

"I would no longer be limited to the top 40 praise and worship hits or the favorites of the church or praise team. I had a mission," he said.

He spent a few years searching for, adapting, and writing material to meet the

challenge. He also discovered that countless ministers were frustrated with inadequate material to support their theological teaching.

"In some cases it seemed ministers had abandoned ideas that drew me to Disciples churches in the first place. They adopted music programs imitating the popular with seemingly no concern for language. My heart was breaking."

Believing in the power music has to connect with people, move them, and get across a message, he decided to initiate a digital music distribution system and resource - songsforsermons.org LLC. It provides piano sheet music, lead sheets, chord charts, audio recordings, and sing-a-long recordings as well as a license to reproduce the material on screen or in bulletins.

Harper is offering a sample by using coupon number 1842 for a discount or simply e-mail the title to tim@beargrass.org.

Tim Harper
Beargrass Christian Church
Louisville, Kentucky



Rev. Tim Harper

Pastor Gives Hope to the Grieving

I am a commissioned pastor in Chillicothe, Ohio, serving as co-pastor at First Christian Church. I took an abbreviated CPE class (60 hours of class, 60 hours of practical), and serve as a volunteer chaplain at Adena Medical Center.

While on-call one day, I was requested in a room where the patient was comatose, and the doctors gave the family no hope. His wife was sitting in a corner, while her step-children and grandchildren were around the father. She was ready to let him go, while his children wanted extreme measures taken. There was resentment in the room over their difference of opinion.

After talking with his wife, I told a granddaughter that once I heard a nurse sing to a terminally ill patient, and it was beautiful. Suddenly she started singing "Amazing Grace," and the family knew all four verses by heart! They mentioned that

he used to sing to them, and it reminded me of a song I recited to end a funeral sermon for a good friend who was a singer. It was "Go Rest High on that Mountain," a song by Vince Gill, and I looked up the words on my phone, which I read to the wife. She said she wanted those words used at his funeral.

Then I realized I could call the song up on YouTube and play it for them. As the song started, his wife told me to hold the phone up to his ear. Soon the whole family was gathered around his bed touching him and crying as the song played. After this I was able to take my leave, knowing that my one-hour visit had enabled that family to finally come together and start to grieve.

Alan R. Cory
Co-Pastor, First Christian Church
Chillicothe, Ohio

Handbook Of Religious Beliefs And Practices Available

In his work with an interfaith advisory group of spiritual leaders in Washington-state, the late Chaplain Colonel Robert Lynn developed a resource handbook to help staff in correctional facilities understand, respect, and appropriately facilitate the various religious traditions within diverse inmate populations. This handbook has also been found to be helpful in other settings where chaplains seek to provide spiritual care to people from various religious communities. Chaplain Lynn's handbook is available for free download from the Well-Fed Spirit Website at: http://wellfedspirit.org/handbook/handbook_links.html

Chaplains Bring Solace for the Soul

Being there to care as a Hospice Chaplain is one of the greatest blessings in my ministry journey. For over a year now, I have been serving as a chaplain with my hometown hospice of Serenity Care Hospice in Harrisonville, Mo., (southeast of Kansas City, Mo.). The name of the hospice came from the Serenity Prayer that was the favorite prayer of the founder and what it represents. At Serenity Care Hospice, we try to



Rev. Ann Kircher

reflect compassionate care and serenity in our quality support services. As a hospice chaplain providing spiritual care support, prayer, and faithful presence for patients and their families on the end-of-life journey is humbling and life-giving to my ministry. Chaplaincy has been a gift throughout my professional ministry journey for the past 17 years. Throughout my journey as a Disciples minister, I seem to have one foot in chaplaincy and one foot in parish ministry. For instance, I currently serve as a Hospice

Chaplain and Intentional Interim Minister of Lone Jack Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Lone Jack, Mo.

Chaplains bring solace for the soul and are courageous persons who are willing to be in the trenches and on the front lines (to use military terms from my U.S. Army days as a Captain) of ministry dealing with life extreme challenges and end-of-life concerns. Each day is filled with moments of sharing the light and love of Christ to all as a beacon of hope to find safe passage on our life journey and to be a compassionate caregiver as I am called by Christ to love one another (John 15:12). This calling of chaplaincy is a gift to be there to care for others and to offer compassionate presence for wholeness and peace.

*Rev. Ann Kircher
Lone Jack Christian Church
Lone Jack, Missouri*

Virginia UCC and Disciples Clergy Share Work on Immigration Reform

Chaplain Woodie Rea, BCC, Director of Spiritual Life at Lake Prince Woods in Suffolk, Va., hosted a joint meeting between the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ Clergy. Believing that ecumenical relationships and ministry partnerships are at the core of chaplaincy ministry, Chaplain Rea sponsored this gathering for networking, resourcing, and education.

Rev. Dr. Lee Parker, Regional Minis-

ter, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia and Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Conference Minister, Southern Conference, United Church of Christ, were both present and gave leadership reports from their respective denominations. The program, which addressed the shared work of comprehensive immigration reform, was entitled, "Welcoming and Witnessing with the World Among Us" and was presented by Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada.



*Rev. Dr. Edward Davis and
Rev. Dr. Lee Parker*

Chaplain Woodie Rea, Director of Spiritual Life at Lake Prince Woods in Suffolk, Virginia

Clergy Continuing Education Grants Awarded Through Disciples Home Missions

Are you a Disciples clergy person (Commissioned or Ordained) dreaming of a continuing education possibility that is slightly beyond the reach of your personal or congregational budget? Perhaps you want to take part in a program of study to learn a new spiritual practice, or hone certain skills needed for pastoral ministry. Maybe you want to enhance a particular hobby you value, in order to remain healthy in your life of ministry. Is a program for conflict management certification or systems theory calling your name? Or, maybe you want to obtain certification, develop some other new skill, or increase your proficiency with an already practiced ability. If so, consider applying for a Disciples Home Missions (DHM) Clergy Continuing Education Grant.

Each year DHM awards between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in grants to clergy applicants who are seeking funds to help underwrite their priorities for life-long learning and continuing education. Normally, each award is limited to \$500. The actual amount of total awards depends on available monies earned from permanent funds, and additional gifts to such funds are always welcomed. The grants are somewhat competitive as there are usually more applications than available money. If funds are limited, applications are more-likely to be awarded to those who meet the following criteria:

- The applicant has not received a prior award in the last year or two;

- The applicant clearly followed instructions, and accurately filled out the application form;
- The applicant clearly communicated how the event for which funds are being sought will help empower their ministry;
- The applicant clearly communicated how the continuing education experience will enhance their own well-being.

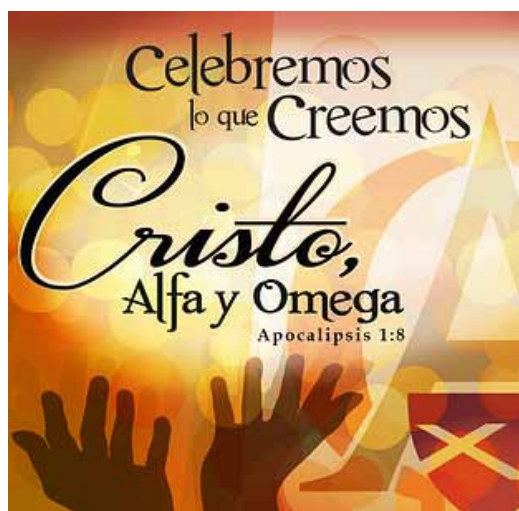
Other requirements and conditions are listed on DHM's Clergy Continuing Education Grant page. Applications for Clergy Continuing Education grants for the 2015 calendar year will be accepted from September 1 through October 31, 2014. This is a change from last year's application period, and is meant to facilitate application requests for events earlier in the calendar year. If you would like to be considered for a DHM Clergy Continuing Education Grant next year (2015), you must apply during the application window. The website where instructions and application can be found is at:

www.discipleshomemissions.org/christian-vocation-continuing-education/

Additional questions may be made to Kelly Harris or Warren Lynn at Disciples Home Missions.

Hispanic Biennial Fellowship Assembly

The Hispanic Biennial Fellowship Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be held on July 16 to 19, at the Casa de Oracion Church in San Diego, Calif. Speakers will be the Rev Dr. Samuel Pagan and the Rev. No-hemi Pagan. For more information and to register, visit www.obrahispana.org/.





From General Synod and General Assembly 2013 until December 2014, Global Ministries is focusing attention on the Democratic Republic of Congo. There are a number of reasons for this specific focus.

In 2011, both the United Church of Christ Synod and Disciples of Christ Assembly approved resolutions calling for reflection, education and advocacy on behalf of the Congo. Over the past decade, approximately 6 million people have been killed in ongoing conflict and war for control of the Congo's vast mineral resources. Any of us who currently use cell phones and computers benefit from these mineral resources that cause so much death and misery. In addition, we have a long history of engagement in the Congo and today, through Global Ministries, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ continue this legacy of connections and relationships. *1 Corinthians 12:16* states that when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer. With a history and engagement in the Congo since



1899, we cannot ignore our calling to walk in solidarity with sisters and brothers there.

This emphasis involves many aspects of engagement: Bible study curriculum, written by both North Americans and Congolese,

focusing on issues such as partnership and mutuality, HIV/AIDS and healthcare, the rights of women and children, and the access to and use of natural resources; People to People immersion trips to the Congo as well as hosting delegates from the partner church/organization; opportunities to learn about

and be involved in advocacy issues which have been identified by partners in the Congo; and worship resources designed to help experience God and faith in new and challenging ways.

So, join us on our journey as we Share Stories, Build Partnerships, and Take Action!

www.globalministries.org/congo-initiative

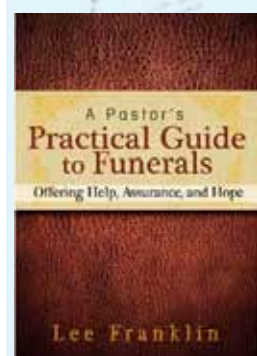
Rev. Shernell J. Edney
Division of Overseas Ministries

Pastors Guide to Funerals

The Pastor's Practical Guide to Funerals: Offering Help, Assurance, and Hope", written by the Rev. Lee Franklin, a Disciples Chaplain from Addison, Texas, has recently been published by Abingdon Press and is available at www.amazon.com. The book integrates chaplain experience into a narrative-based framework for funeral ministry. The book includes caring for patients and families through anticipated death and sudden death. It then walks the chaplain/pastor through a narrative approach to meeting

with the family after death, planning the funeral service and sermon, leading the funeral/memorial service, and follow-up grief care. This book is appropriate for chaplains, pastors, seminary and CPE students.

Rev. Lee Franklin
Chaplain & Bereavement Coordinator
Elysian Hospice
Cantex Continuing Care Network
Addison, Texas



www.amazon.com/Pastors-Practical-Guide-Funerals-Assurance/dp/1426758197

ON WITH LIFE

I am a pastor/chaplain with standing in the Upper Midwest Region. I have been ordained with the Disciples for 59 years. After my retirement from Ankeny Christian Church in 1998, I was invited by the administrator at "ON WITH LIFE" to become the Chaplain (on a part time basis). ON WITH LIFE was established by local families who each had a family member who had experienced a brain injury. It is a brain injury rehabilitation medical center with 26 beds. Persons served at the facility usually spend one to twelve months in intensive therapies. Our Mission is: Joining hands, hearts and minds to help persons living with brain injury to get ON WITH LIFE.

I work with the music therapist and volunteers to provide a weekly chapel devotional service. We integrate persons served in the service to play an instrument, offer prayer, read scripture and help in any way they can. I visit with persons served, families, staff and friends and offer them an opportunity to consult with me. I am available at other times to be involved in special events, conferences and hospital visitation.

Tyler, a 20 year old, member of a football team at a community College and home during spring break, had no idea that March

21, 2012, would be the day his life changed forever. He was blindsided by a garbage truck, airlifted to a medical center in Des Moines where doctors had their doubts if Tyler would survive. After a month in the hospital, he was admitted to ON WITH LIFE. When he arrived he could not talk, walk or eat. After six months, he walked out of ON WITH LIFE and now lives in his own apartment and takes college courses. "Being sent to ON WITH LIFE still makes me think God is looking out for me. It truly was a blessing to be placed in such good hands and recover as much as I did."¹

In 2000 a large stained glass window was installed in the chapel. The window pictures the grandeur of tall pines with their beautiful green boughs. High intensity forest fires open the serotinous cones and release the seeds to new life. Many persons served experience the "fire" before regeneration at ON WITH LIFE.

*Gerald F. Sawyer, Chaplain
ON WITH LIFE
Ankeny, Iowa*

¹ ON WITH LIFE Headway, Winter 2013-14

Hope *Continued from page 1.*

Episcopal priest, Janet Loyd, led the meeting with a prayer of thanks for "gifts of time, skills, donations, prayer, and above all, love." She affirmed their strength with these words, "Love endures, God endures and we will endure."

I have been a chaplain with Providence Hospice of Snohomish County for several years. My colleagues and I have driven over Highway 530 to visit patients and families. In our free time we have driven it to go on mountain hikes, river rafting and eagle watching. People who live in these areas choose to live there because of the quiet, peace and beauty. Many are generational lifelong residents.

The community of Darrington needs Highway 530 to be open again soon. It is the lifeline of their economy and connection

to their jobs and the greater community. Opening the highway will be part of their healing. The scar where the mountain slid through the river will remind them of their losses and of their gratitude for the gifts that life offers every single day.

*Rev. Donna Vande Kieft
Everett, Washington*



This aerial photo (left) shows the extent and impacts from the March 22 Oso mudslide. The aerial survey was conducted by Washington State departments of Transportation and Natural Resources, the USGS and the King County Sheriff's Office. (Photo from the King County Sheriff/Air Support Unit)



What Was the Hottest Spot for Teens in Indy?

A Church. That's Right A CHURCH! AWA Reacts to Packed Church Youth Event

One Friday in March, literally hundreds of teens and some young adults, descended on a North Michigan Road address. They'd heard about an event there from parents, other adults, friends and peers. They'd gotten word on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

in were hanging out on the church's parking lots milling around, waiting for parents or others to pick them up. IMPD was called out as a precaution. Workers from the Ten Point Coalition were there as they'd heard rumors that perhaps some gangs might be present. But there were NO incidents.

On the Indianapolis radio show "Afternoons with Amos" listeners reacted to the spectacle of young people clamoring to get into a church. Young people who made a church the place to be on a Friday evening. Senior Pastor of Light of the World Church, Dr. David Hampton talked with Amos and listeners about the event. Dr. Hampton admitted that church staff and volun-

teers were overwhelmed by the response, but in-

indicated that the young people inside and outside were orderly and respectful. At altar call after the Word had been preached, Dr. Hampton said some 50 youth came forward to accept Christ as their Savior. Dr. Hampton said there were gang members inside the event in the church, but they were behaved. Dr. Hampton and listeners felt that there should be more of these efforts to involve and engage Indianapolis youth in positive fellowships where they can gather with their peers in a safe, positive environment.

*Light of the World Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Indianapolis, Indiana*

Teens lined up several deep waiting to get into Youth Event at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis, Ind. Photo Courtesy: LWCC Church

So they descended on the location, crowding the facility to capacity. Teens were lined up around the facility, some literally trying to sneak in other exits and entrances. Was this a rap concert, the opening of a new Under 21 nightspot, or a house party about to get out of control? No the teens were packed outside of an Indianapolis church. That's right A CHURCH! Between 600 to 900 young people clamored to get into the venerable Light of the World Church which was sponsoring a youth lock-in, where young people could gather, fellowship and worship in a safe environment. But the church's workers and volunteers were overwhelmed by the response. Light of the World had sponsored something similar in March 2013 which drew over 300 youth. But this was nearly three times as many. Once the church filled to capacity, young people who couldn't get

Celebrating 100 Years Young!

When someone hears "100-years," they might think, O-L-D. While First Christian Church in Fayetteville, Ark., celebrated the 100th birthday of its building on Sunday, May 25, the faith community continues to move into the future.

"We are a relevant church for today that just happens to worship in an historic building," said senior minister, Rev. Ryan Pfeiffer. "We are proud of our history, proud of what's in the rear view mirror, but constantly looking through the front windshield and into the future God calls us," he said.

Some recent areas of calling have included a summer feeding program for local children, partnering with Trinity Methodist and three other area churches to provide Sunday meals for residents in Fayetteville, serving with Seven Hills Homeless Center, working in tornado and flood damaged communities, and building 6 wells in the Democratic Republic of Congo and one in Amura, Kenya.

"We are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world," Rev. Pfeiffer said, "And we seek to provide opportunities for people to engage their minds, grow their hearts and use their hands for the service of God."

First Christian Church, Fayetteville, affiliates with the broader church body known as the Disciples of Christ. The Fayetteville congregation is diverse in thought, and its mission statement places emphasis on the value of inquiry and exploration of faith in the process of seeking a better understanding of God, the Bible, and living the Christian faith.

"A melting pot of social, political, and religious viewpoints reside within these walls, but at the end of the day I think it's what kept us strong and alive for over 166 years. We can share beliefs openly and ask questions. We don't presume to have all the answers, but our faith is strengthened when we seek understanding together," said Cheryl Sybrant, communications minister at the church.

"Love and warmth brought me to FCC Fayetteville. Love and an ability to have

open discourse, without fear, keeps me going," said church member, Nathan Becknell.

On Sunday mornings, contemporary and traditional services are offered. Depending on which service worshippers attend, they might hear musical genre of Bach by the chancel choir and played on pipe organ or a Chris Tomlin tune sung with drums, bass guitar, and piano by the Praise Band. The church is diverse as well in age, from infants to youth, young adults, mid-lifers, retirees and those with gray hair and much wisdom.

About that history...

166 years ago, First Christian Church was established after a 12-day meeting in 1848 led by Rev. Robert Graham, 26, and Rev. John T. Johnson, 60. Since then, the community of faith has weathered the destruction of two of its churches, both to fires -- one during the Civil War, and one on December 18, 1912 in the coal furnace.

The present church building was rebuilt over the course of 17 months at a cost of \$25,000 and officially dedicated on May 24, 1914. Over the years, the congregation has continued the legacy of preserving the building while balancing a modern vision for ministry for many generations.

*Rev. Ryan Pfeiffer
First Christian Church
Fayetteville, Arkansas*



Ministries Joining Together to Respond to Children in Need

Disciples Home Missions (DHM), Week of Compassion, and the National Benevolent Association (NBA) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), are collaborating with the Church of the Brethren Children's Disaster Services (CDS) to create a new position and initiative that will help meet the needs of children affected by disaster.

A new memorandum of understanding outlines this partnership, providing the framework for a three year focus on expanding CDS in the Gulf Coast region. Funding provided by DHM, NBA and Week of Compassion will develop a new role of a gulf coast coordinator. This individual will support the developing and training of a larger network of volunteers in Mississippi, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana. By engaging the strength and networks of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations and their significant children's ministries we see great potential to better meet the needs of children in this disaster prone area.

The partnership includes the training of interested church members and others in the region as caregiving volunteers and for leadership roles supporting volunteer coordination and volunteer training. A

primary goal of this initiative is to train 250 potential volunteers in the next three years. After completing a certification process including a criminal record check, these volunteers will provide direct care to children in shelters and service centers after a disaster. The volunteers will be organized into rapid response teams to be the first caregivers responding after a disaster in their region. These volunteers will also be called to serve larger disasters outside of the region.

The regional coordinator role is key for the success of this initiative. This part time paid position will network with potential partners, engage congregations and help facilitate new volunteer workshops. It is vital that they live in a Gulf Coast state. For more information please contact Kathy Fry-Miller at 410-635-8734 or kfry-miller@brethren.org.

"The Church of the Brethren is excited for this expanding partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Children's Disaster Services. For several years our two churches have been in conversations on how to work together as peacemakers. I can think of no better way than for our volunteers to join their gifts and talents in providing a caring

Continued on page 19. See Children in Need.



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Journey to Ghana

The Executive Committee of the National Convocation journeyed to Ghana from March 14 to March 24, for an Executive Board Meeting and opportunity for Mission and Service. In addition to the Executive Committee, (President Patricia Maples, Vice President Jesse Jackson, Secretary Karen Barrett, Timothy James, Sheila Spencer, R. Wayne Calhoun Sr. and Doris Speaks) the majority of the delegation included several members of the National Convocation Board of Trustees along with some family members. The Rev. Sandra Gourdet, the Executive for the Africa Office, also participated in the journey. There were also representatives from the National Association of Negro Business and Profes-



*Photo above:
Delegation
Welcome*



Photo above: Service project included shoes donated by several churches.



*Photo to left:
Dedication of
well.*

sional Women's Clubs, Inc.

The mission and services included:

1. Three Water Wells Commissioned from three donors (1. National Convocation Christian Churches, 2. Michigan Park Christian Church, 3. East Dallas Christian Church)
2. Over 300 pieces of Clothing, Shoes & School Uniforms for Girls and Boys.
3. School Supplies including Laptops for Scholarship Students.
4. Health procedures for adolescents and adults.



*Photo below:
Students receive
dresses.*

Continued on next page.

Ghana *Continued from previous page.*



Photo above: Visiting slave dungeon at Cape Coast



5. Education Sessions for Men and to Boys.

This was a life changing journey. The photos offer a small glimpse into our gathering. During our time, delegates wrote a blog <http://gmpeopletopeople.wordpress.com/category/ghana/>. We have featured some of the entries on the blog, you are encouraged to go to the link to hear the whole story.

Headed to Ghana

Dr. and Mrs. Timothy James, Dr. R. Wayne Calhoun Sr., Minister Sheila Spencer, and Doris Speaks left Indianapolis International Airport at 1:15 PM Friday, March 14, 2014. We arrived in JFK in New York where we met other members in our group traveling to Ghana. We arrived in Accra, Ghana at 10:55 AM Saturday morning where we met Sandra Gourdet. After going through customs and gathering our bags, we sorted through 19 suitcases and bags that contained donations and supplies from the states. These supplies were sent to Kumasi, where they will be held until we begin our mission work in that region.

Leaving the airport, we stopped to

tour the Memorial of President Kwame N'Krumah. President N'Krumah was an active African Visionary and Ghana's first President, elected in April 1960. He was responsible for assuring that Ghana fought for and achieved its independence. Many school children visit this Memorial Park in honor of President N'Krumah on Saturdays.

Panoramic Views

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

The day started with a morning meditation at sunrise on the beautiful Atlantic coast. Notice the "footprints in the sand!"

We went from the depths of emotion after visiting the slave dungeons yesterday and thinking, "those were our ancestors who were victimized by the inhumane brutalities of slavery," to the "height" of faith and trust as we remember, "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength" Phil. 4:13.

We exercised our faith this morning by walking the Kakum Canopy Bridges. There was a 15 minute walk up a rocky hill in the rainforest to get to the canopies in The Kakum Park. The Canopy Bridges are a 360 meter bridge suspended over a canopy of trees in Africa's rainforest. We walked over seven suspension bridges that were connected to six wooden platforms where we were able to stop and observe the panoramic views of the rainforest.

Timothy James

Photo below: National Convocation President Rev. Patricia Maples surprises Rev. Sandra Gourdet during the Closing Dinner. The National Convocation presented gifts and honored Rev. Gourdet for her ministry and dedication.



A Rose Among Thorns

Imagine a community of 145,000 residents living within a 1.9 square mile area. Imagine a community with a poverty rate of 40% compared to 15% in Los Angeles County. Imagine a community with over 50% dropout rate and 60% of the residents have not graduated from high school. Imagine a community that has persevered with the support and assistance of All Peoples Community Center more than 70 years.

Margaret was tired of the abuse that she received from her husband. A neighbor told her about the Domestic Violence support group offered at All Peoples. Margaret was very shy when she began the program and over the last six months, she has blossomed. She found her voice and now understands how the violence in the home is affecting her children. "I developed relationships with women in the community and we support one another in our journey to say NO to abuse." She completed the "Promotoras" program and is now a community health advocate.

Johnny is a young adult who suffers from depression. In 2013, he was hospitalized with severe depression and placed on suicide watch. Upon his release from the hospital, he assessed his life and searched for ways to reengage with society. He returned to the Center where he had attended our continuation high school. He became interested in the Garden managed by high school students and afterschool program families. "My volunteer work is more than

digging in the ground; we are building community and addressing the issues of lack of fresh fruits and vegetables in the neighborhood." By the time, you read this article Johnny will have completed the program to become a Master Gardener.

Sarah has four children, ages 13, 11, and twins who are 7. Sarah's ex husband refuses to work and will not pay child support. She works part-time and relies on family members for support in raising her children. Sarah's dilemma last summer, school was out and she had limited funds for childcare. A friend told her about our "Urban Adventures" summer day camp program. She was able to receive scholarships because of Disciples Home Missions "Remember there are no Undeserving Children in the World fund." Activities included math and reading enhancements, science, sign language, music, arts and crafts, recreation, field trips to local museums, aquariums, and the local beach. For six weeks, the children joined 80 community youth in an enriching and fun experience.

If All Peoples were a real, live person, she would be everybody's surrogate aunt; the one person anyone in the community knows they can count on when a crisis arises. She has made her home a gathering place for people who need help and those willing to offer it. APCC never judges those in need because she understands just how tough life in South LA can be. She treats all comers with equal grace, kindness and authentic concern. That is why they have trusted her for many years past and will continue to trust her for years to come.

*Saundra Bryant, Executive Director
All Peoples Community Center
Los Angeles, California*



Photo above: APCC garden (photo provided by APCC)



Photo above: APCC planting garden (photo provided by APCC)



Yakama Christian Mission to Become Community/Program Based Ministry

Yakama Christian Mission (YCM) is a historic ministry of Disciples Home Missions (DHM). Like many other ministries it has been subject to change over the years; some have been noticeable, others not.

Yakama Christian Mission is currently in the process of significant and very noticeable change. By action of the Yakama Christian Mission Board, the ministry is moving from a property-based ministry to a community/program based ministry. We are in the initial stages of this change.

We have sold the "Just Living" Home in Harrah, Wash. The funds from the sale will be invested with Christian Church Foundation and a portion of the earnings will be used to provide support for Yakama Christian Mission ministry.

The Yakama Christian Mission Board has scheduled a "Visioning for the Future" meeting in early May. The purpose of this meeting will be to plan for the continuation and future of this historic and important

ministry. We encourage your comments or suggestions and ask that you please share them with Larry Crist, Chair of the Board, at LDCCCSF@gmail.com.

We anticipate that the next step in the process will be Disciples Home Missions selling the remaining five acres on which the Log Church, apartment, offices and gutted parsonage now sit. This property and its buildings are old enough that they require constant and expensive upkeep and maintenance which the YCM ministry can no longer sustain. Because this property belongs to DHM, its Board will decide about how the proceeds from the sale shall be used.

We will provide another update on our changes and progress in a future "Disciples Advocate."

Thank you for continuing to keep this ministry in your prayers as we prepare for these upcoming transitions.

The Board of Yakama
www.yakamamission.org



Photo above: APCC Summer Day Camp Museum (photo provided by APCC)

All Peoples Community Center is a mission center that provides the residents of South Los Angeles, from children to seniors, with a broad spectrum of social service and programs that promote equality, unity, respect and self-determination.



Photo right: End Abuse (photo provided by APCC)

Transforming Leadership, Transforming Congregations at the 40th Annual Black Ministers Retreat

The 40th Annual Black Ministers Retreat was held this past March in Johnson City, Tenn., and welcomed pastors and congregational leaders from around the country. As in year's past, the retreat included dynamic preaching and worship each night, as well as a wide range of workshop topics including missions and volunteering, clergy health, refugees and immigration, and faith and giving.

The retreat facility was graciously provided by Boones Creek Christian Church (Independent). The congregations and pastors of Bethel Christian Church, Jonesborough, Tenn.; and Hasson Street Christian Church, Rogersville, Tenn., also served as local hosts, showing extravagant hospitality to the retreat guests.

The Office of Black Ministries offers great thanks to all those who participated, and we look forward to seeing you next year in Montgomery, Ala., March 2 to 5, 2015! www.discipleshomemissions.org/black-ministers-retreat



Photos left, top and below: Workshop led by the Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea on the challenges of refugee and immigration ministries. Sharon is Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Photos top left and right and photo to left: Continuing Education Course at Black Ministers Retreat facilitated by Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Disciples Center for Faith and Giving, Office of General Minister and President.

Children in Need *Continued from page 13.*

service ministry for children affected by disaster. It is a ministry that seeks to reconcile the lives of some of the most vulnerable victims after disaster, the children," shared Stanley Noffsinger, Church of the Brethren General Secretary.

Kathleen Fry-Miller, Associate Director of Children's Disaster Services, shares that, "Children have unique needs following a disaster. They feel the chaos and stress of the disaster and need opportunities to express their feelings and their experience through play. Our dedicated leaders and volunteers are well trained to provide the nurturing adult presence and open-ended play experiences that support the healing process for children. This partnership will allow us to expand our program in areas of high need."

"The Church of the Brethren is excited for this expanding partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Children's Disaster Services. For years, Disciples members have been volunteering with CDS providing care to the smallest of disaster survivors. At this critical time in the history of CDS, this partnership helps grow the program beyond the capacity of one denomination. Together we are growing the ministry in critical disaster prone areas to better meet the needs of children and families impacted by disasters," comments Roy Winter, Associate Executive Director of the Church of the Brethren.

Leaders throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are excited about the increased connections and partnership with CDS ministries.

Rev. Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director of Week of Compassion says, "As part of our ministry as the Disaster, Development, and Refugee Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion looks for partners in our denominational and ecumenical families to respond to critical needs in the wake of disasters. The partnership between Disciples Volunteering, DHM's Family and Children's Ministries, the National Benevolent Association (NBA), and Children's Disaster Services will provide a new avenue for volunteers to show the love of Christ to children impacted by tornados, floods, and other devastating events."

"Disciples Volunteering is thrilled to share in this endeavor, partnering with ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Church of the Brethren in response to the needs of children, who are among

the most vulnerable following disaster. Together, we look forward to expanding and enhancing the critical work of Children's Disaster Services while equipping Disciples to offer their gifts in service to their neighbors," reflects Rev. Josh Baird, Director of Disciples Volunteering at Disciples Home Missions (DHM).

Disciples Home Missions (DHM), Rev. Olivia Updegrove also reflected on her excitement about the emerging partnership. "The love for children and the need to care for our children at all times and in all situations flows from us as compassionate, faithful people. The Family and Children's ministry team stands in an ecumenical relationship of both Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ. This relationship opens doors for more people and congregations to be prepared to respond when disaster strikes, and God's love is not found in a name or title, but in a response to heal the soul."

The collective endeavor of Disciples ministries and the Church of the Brethren supports the work of creating communities of compassion and care, a primary commitment of the ministries of the National Benevolent Association (NBA). Mark D. Anderson, NBA President and CEO, says, "this new collaborative partnership creates some significant connections among Disciples congregations and also Disciples-related health and social service agencies especially those serving families and children. The partnership provides more opportunities for faithful Disciples to be trained and equipped to respond in times of crisis as well as to resource agencies who provide care to children each day. We are eager to nurture these increased opportunities for compassionate care."

General Minister and President for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, expresses her added support of Disciples ministries and Children Disaster Services. "As Disciples, we are a movement for wholeness, God's wholeness. We respond in times of human need and disaster for we recognize our connectedness to one another. This partnership is truly part of our call to be a faithful witness."

More information will be released shortly about a new position related to Disciples ministries and Children's Disaster Services. If you or your congregation would like to know more about Children's Disaster Services or to be trained in rapid response volunteer leadership, contact Kathy Fry-Miller at kfry-miller@brethren.org or (410) 635-8734.



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BRIAN MCLAREN | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Brian has been active in networking and mentoring church planters and pastors since the mid 1980s. A prolific author, some of his recent books include "A New Kind of Christianity" which articulates 10 questions that are central to the emergence of a postmodern, post-colonial Christian faith. "Naked Spirituality," offers "simple, doable, and durable" practices to help people deepen their life with God. And "Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? (Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World)" explores the intersection of religious identity, inter-religious hostility, and human solidarity.



PREACHERS

The Rev. Dr. William L. Lee, Loudon Avenue Christian Church, in Roanoke, Virginia and Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President

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TAKE A LITTLE SABBATH REST.

EMERGE RENEWED.

Registration and more information is available on www.disciples.org
and in the Disciples Together pastor's e-letter.

Join Our Disciples Work to Encourage Immigration Reform!

The Disciples office of Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM) continues to strengthen our efforts throughout the country to seek bi-partisan solutions to fix our broken immigration system. Since last summer's passage by the Senate of bill 744, the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act," attention has turned to the House of Representatives for their own legislative action. Along with 41 other national denominations and faith groups, RIM continues to express faith support to the House for solutions that:

- prioritize family unity and reunification,
- protect refugees and migrant survivors of violence,
- protect the rights of workers, ensure humanitarian values are present during enforcement,
- create a way for undocumented immigrants to apply for citizenship,
- address root causes that push migrants from their homes, and
- prioritize funding for our world's most vulnerable populations.

No legislation has yet been passed out of the full House. However, NOW is the time to share these priorities with your local legislators!! See a full list of these recommendations at: www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/FINAL-2014-IIC-Congress-Recs_02.25.14.pdf. And, contact our office TODAY (at 202-957-7826, or ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org) for additional information on special faith and film resources to help raise these priorities with your congregation during the upcoming Holy Days & Holidays of Pentecost, Mother's/Father's Days, World Refugee Day, and Independence Day!!

Please contact RIM for more information about how you can use your voice to encourage the Administration to consider humane enforcement practices, and to offer relief for those unjustly at risk of family separation and deportation. RIM is currently encouraging a renewal and expansion of current DACA policies, and is supporting the end to programs that have resulted in racial profiling. RIM is also joining with other

faith groups in asking for safer deportation practices—such as encouraging any returns to happen in daytime and in consult with non-profit organizations, and ensuring all belongings are returned and families are reunited before removal. *Please let our office know how we can support your efforts and send us messages and pictures*



Photo above: the Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea right. Photo provided by George Newcomb at FestivalDC.com.

of your actions!

Join us on the web at: www.disciple-shomemissions.org/refugee-immigration-ministries/ and like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/RefugeeAndImmigration-MinistriesChristianChurchDoc !!

*Sharon Stanley-Rea
Washington, D.C.*



The Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries

ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org

(202) 957-7826



Photo provided by George Newcomb at FestivalDC.com.

First Christian Church in Owensboro, Kentucky Continues Long Time Relationships with Refugees

The following article by Rev. Rebekah Krevens shares the Owensboro church's passionate commitment to building partnerships with their refugee neighbors. If their story inspires your congregation to sponsor a refugee family or individual as well, contact Refugee & Immigration Ministries Director, Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, at ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org or (202) 957-7826.

It was a Wednesday afternoon, volunteers were recruited, a schedule set, school supplies were sorted and a registration table ready as we anxiously waited for people to arrive. We couldn't imagine what was going to happen next. We were naively expecting at the most 35 Burmese refugees, children and adults, to arrive for a "Back to School" event at our church. Instead we were flooded with over 100 participants and it felt like an exciting whirlwind. As our neighbors arrived to the registration table, they signed up for Imagination Library, an organization that sends a free children's book in the mail every month, and then everyone was put into rotation groups. Over the next couple of hours, children created a group art mural, a city health representative gave a demonstration on how to properly install car seats, the Junior League of Owensboro read children's stories out loud, and school supplies, books, and clothes were distributed. It was indeed rewarding to have such a great turn out for this event, but it was just as rewarding to witness ministry taking place using a partnership model. Different groups came together and were able to offer a stronger example of outreach than they would have been able to do on their own.

Four years ago, First Christian Church of Owensboro became aware that refugees from Burma/Myanmar had moved into

the apartments across the street from our church. The relationship with our new neighbors began because several of our church members wondered how we could provide compassionate outreach to meet



Photo provided by Rev. Rebekah Krevens, First Christian Church, Owensboro, Kentucky.

critical needs. Our initial efforts included inviting the refugees to our "pantry night" so that they could receive food to supplement their own pantries. Through this process, we coordinated our efforts through the International Center of Owensboro so that we would know the specific needs of the refugee community. We then delivered groceries and other items to the newest arrivals in order to assist the refugees in making this new place their home.

Ever since our initial encounter with the refugees in our community, our church has initiated new programs, events, and special projects, such as the "Reading and Art/Back to School" event. Other activities have included a community garden, a women's knitting group, after school tutoring, hosting Burmese festivals in our building, assisting with transportation to work, and an English conversation practice group. In addition to these specific projects, individual members from our congregation have assisted Burmese refugees by providing dental care, helping with getting driving permits, and finding employment. All these activities carry



Photo provided by Rev. Rebekah Krevens, First Christian Church, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Continued on page 26. See Owensboro.

Communication and Collaboration with the Family and Children's Ministries Team

The Family and Children's Ministries Team is working hard to determine the most effective ways to communicate and collaborate with each and every one of the pastors, lay leaders, and families who serve our congregations.

In March we began a Family and Children's E-Newsletter. We invite you to subscribe and share (widely!) the information we will provide in upcoming issues: practical tools, distilled resources, and valuable conversations on the ministry within our churches. We believe everyone should be invested in family ministries because we are all some form of family. (Subscribe and look for updates on our work at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/family-and-childrens-ministries)

In addition to this new effort, we continue to seek other ways to best inform each of you about our core values and vision in order to support and enhance your ministries. We want to let you know about relevant and new resources for holistic faith formation. Our team continues to work together as a ministry of Disciples Home Missions in collaboration with the United Church of Christ Faith Formation Team. We are also collaborating with other general units of the church and ecumenical partners to respond to needs beyond our local church walls.

Over the past year, much of our time has been curating and relationship building with scholars, consultants, and pastors who are the current prophetic voices in faith formation. Our communication is expanding to better enable us to highlight specific areas of interests and needs across denominational lines. A few of our most recent endeavors include learning about current curricula for camp and in-home resources, events and trainings for interfaith/ecumenical programs, and results of current trends in religious culture. You will find us providing a variety of workshops and opportunities at our general and regional level events. We also invite you to talk to us at these events,

connect with us through the Disciples Care for Children Facebook group, or simply pick up the phone and give us a call.

This ministry is still in process and we ask for your patience as we update and introduce some new vehicles for communication



while working in conjunction with the existing communication tools. We will be launching a new Family and Children's website in the future and will keep you updated when it goes live. We have also recently begun a Pinterest profile for those looking to share and exchange ideas for hands-on activities and more: www.pinterest.com/disciplesfcm.

The bandwidth of exciting and insightful information is overwhelming, but we hope to serve you in a way that makes finding that information easier.

Here is a list of resources to entice you into delving deeper into a ministry that serves all ages and creates lifelong faithful disciples:

- **"Homegrown Faith and Justice by UCC Resources"** -- This is an easy to use book to help families with children of all ages to engage in discussion around justice issues. Our team lifts up this book because it responds to a need of in-home faith formation that is easy, accessible, and still high quality. As we continue our partnership with the United Church of Christ, we lift up this in-home justice educational tool for families. You can order the book at uccresources.org or watch the online discussion www.ucc.org/justice/justice-for-children/homegrown-faith-and-justice-family-resource-and-panel-discussion.html.
- **Vibrant Faith @ Home** -- A part of Vibrant Faith Ministries. This ministry is part of a vision called 21st Century Faith formation. Vibrant Faith @ Home gives seasonal in-home family lessons (for ALL ages) and

Continued on page 31. See FCM Team.



Newsletters and Publications Available from DHM

- **Disciples Home Missions Updates** -- bi-monthly e-newsletter from the president. Sign up at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/.
- **Family & Children's Ministries E-newsletter** -- bi-monthly e-newsletter. Sign up at: <http://eepurl.com/QwcwX> or www.discipleshomemissions.org/?p=15674 Archive of past issues: <http://us3.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=aa757cb990bd7a0f77ade17d1&id=7a1d1af859>.
- **Green Chalice News** -- monthly creation care e-newsletter. Sign up at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/receive-green-chalice-news/.
- **Immigration Legal Updates** -- Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel provides timely updates on changes to immigration law and policies that impact Disciples congregations and families. Sign up at: disciplesimmigration.org.
- **Just Women magazine** -- quarterly-issued resource material for Christian women is published by Disciples Women's Ministries. Place your subscription or have individual copies delivered to your door. Contact JustWomen@dhm.disciples.org.
- **News and Notes** -- monthly newsletter that is sent out to Disciples Chaplains. Visit: www.discipleshomemissions.org/chaplainsnewsnotes/ or contact Anne Marie Moyars at: amoyars@dhm.disciples.org.
- **Rapid Response** -- periodic updates about actions you can take in response to legislative action. Sign up at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/justice/rapid-response/.
- **The Well-Fed Spirit** -- Visit: www.wellfedspirit.org.
- **The Voice of Disciples Men** -- e-newsletter from the Disciples Men. Sign up by contacting Kelly Harris at kharris@dhm.disciples.org.
- **Umoja** -- newsletter Umoja, which translates to Unity-Oneness-Harmony, is created by and produced for the Disciples Women of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and edited by the Disciples Women program staff and merger staff position. Visit: www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/disciples-women-newsletters/ or contact: odw@dhm.disciples.org.
- **Voices** -- newsletter produced by the staff of Disciples Women with input from the reading audience. Published three times a year. Visit: www.discipleshomemissions.org/disciples-women-newsletters/ or sign up at odw@dhm.disciples.org.

Disciples Montagnard Refugees in Charlotte, N.C. Host RIM Director Visit

On Feb. 26, the Montagnard refugee group choir sang in worship, then provided a potluck meal attended by well over 100 persons (largely Montagnard) from both Charlotte and Greensboro areas. "Their hospitality, dances, crafts -- and especially their faith -- were astounding," expressed Refugee and Immigration Director the Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea again and again!

The community also shared deeply the pain their community continues to experience due to religious persecution by those still remaining in Central Vietnam. They also shared financial and human rights challenges endured by community members who remain displaced in northern Thailand. RIM hopes to continue to work in partnership with our Disciples Montagnard communities to continue to seek improvements in human rights.

Rev. Nancy Carol Stahl, and Pastor Jolin McElroy of First Christian Church in Charlotte continue to provide ongoing support and faith partnership to the remarkable communities that have become their neighbors. "We are so grateful the Montagnard communities found our church. It was like a miracle from God that they showed up near Christmas years ago in our church, and

expressed their desire to worship together," says Rev. Nancy Carol Stahl. "Their presence brings great vitality to the church!"

Following worship, youth and adults performed cultural dances in homes, and shared elaborate beaded and woven fabrics and jewelry which demonstrated the unique abilities of their cultural communities. Some Montagnard refugee crafts are planned to be available for sale in the Exhibit Hall at the upcoming Quadrennial Assembly for Disciples Women, in Atlanta, Ga., June 25-29.



Photo above center: the Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea with Disciples Montagnard Refugees in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Owensboro *Continued from page 23.*

significant stories. Through all of this, we have been humbled and we have learned so much from the refugees.

On March 18, 2013 our historic downtown church was struck by lightning and completely destroyed by fire. As you can imagine, it was an emotional experience to lose our church home and sacred space. Many people reached out to us during this shocking time by sending us gifts of solidarity. Some of the most touching gifts we received came from our Burmese neighbors. Just days after the fire on two different occasions we were presented with envelopes full of cash. Our Burmese neighbors had collected love offerings on our behalf. Stuffed into each envelope were ten and twenty dollar bills, together it added up to over \$2,000.00. We were utterly humbled by this generous gift.

The relationship between our church community and the refugee community can be described as reciprocal. One group is not always the benefactor and one group is not always the receiver. Instead it is a constant back and forth. The lines between giving and receiving are blurred. Our friendship is a blessing.

*Rev. Rebekah Krevens
Owensboro, Kentucky*



Photo provided by
Rev. Rebekah Krevens,
First Christian Church,
Owensboro, Kentucky

Sponsor a Refugee in Your Area

Our Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations partner with Church World Service to provide refugee resettlement assistance to hundreds of refugees per year!

Due to US State Department regulations, **churches within a 50 mile radius area of each of the offices located below** are encouraged to consider resettling a family or individual.

Call 202-957-7826, or write sstanley@dhm.disciples.org for further information about how you can get involved, or to have our RIM Director, Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, come to present a program at your church!

Arizona

Refugee Focus
3443 N. Central Ave.
North Rotunda,
Phoenix, AZ

California

Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
Interfaith Refugee & Immigration
Service
3621 Brunswick Ave.
Los Angeles, CA

Opening Doors, Inc.
Center for New Americans
1111 Howe Avenue, Suite 125
Sacramento, CA

Colorado

Ecumenical Refugee Services, Inc.
1600 Downing Street, Suite 400
Denver, CO

Connecticut

Integrated Refugee & Immigrant
Services
Episcopal Social Service, Inc.
235 Nicoll St., 2nd floor
New Haven, CT

Florida

Church World Service/IRP
Miami Office
1924 NW 84th Ave., Building 10
Beacon Centre,
Doral, FL

Church World Service/IRP
Sub-Office of Miami
220 S. Congress Park Drive, Suite 300
Delray Beach, FL

Georgia

Refugee Resettlement and Immigra-
tion Services of Atlanta
2300 Henderson Mill, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA

Illinois

RefugeeOne
4753 N. Broadway, Suite 401
Chicago, IL

Indiana

Exodus Refugee/Immigration, Inc.
1125 Brookside Ave., Suite C9
Indianapolis, IN
American Red Cross - St. Joseph
County Chapter
3220 E Jefferson Boulevard
South Bend, IN

Kentucky

Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.
969B Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY

Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.
Sub-Office of Louisville
1206 North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40505-3242

Michigan

Bethany Refugee Services
Refugee Resettlement Program
1050 36th Street SE, Suite 400
Grand Rapids, MI

Minnesota

Minnesota Council of Churches
Refugee Services
122 West Franklin, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN

Nebraska

Lutheran Refugee Services
1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 402
Omaha, NE

Lutheran Refugee Services
Sub-Office of Omaha
2900 "O" Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE

New Hampshire

Interfaith Refugee Resettlement
Program
Lutheran Social Services of the NE
261 Sheep Davis Road - Ste A-1
Concord, NH

New York

Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.
Tri-Main Center
2495 Main Street
Buffalo, NY

Catholic Family Center, Refugee
Resettlement Program
87 N Clinton Ave.
Rochester, NY

InterFaith Works of Central New
York, Inc.
Refugee Resettlement Program
3049 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY

North Carolina

Church World Service IRP, Durham
112 S. Duke Street, Suite 4B
Durham, NC

Church World Service IRP,
Greensboro
620 S. Elm St. Suite 315
Greensboro, NC

Ohio

Community Refugee and Immigra-
tion Services (CRIS)
1925 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.,
Suite 102
Columbus, OH

Oregon

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refu-
gees (SOAR)
7931 NE Halsey Street, Suite 314
Portland, OR

Pennsylvania

Church World Service IRP
c/o Tabor Community Services
308 East King Street, PO Box 1676
Lancaster, PA

Tennessee

Bridge Refugee Services, Inc.
7035 Middlebrook Pike, Suite A
Knoxville, TN

Texas

Refugee Services of Texas, Inc.
12025 Shiloh Road, Suite 240
Dallas, TX

Refugee Services of Texas
Sub-Office of Dallas
7801 North Lamar, Suite F-20
Austin, TX

Refugee Services of Texas, Inc.
Sub-Office of Dallas
1801 Circle Drive
Fort Worth, TX

Refugee Services of Texas, Inc.
Sub-Office of Dallas
1731 S. Avondale
Amarillo, TX

Interfaith Ministries for Greater
Houston
IM Refugee Services
3303 Main Street
Houston, TX

Virginia

CWS IRP Virginia - Harrisonburg
Office
250 East Elizabeth Street, Suite 109
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-4159

CWS IRP Virginia - Richmond Office
3314 N. Parham Road
Richmond, VA

For more information about the offices listed above, go to: www.cwsglobal.org/what-we-do/refugees/irp-affiliates.html

Reflections on the Disciples Center Building-wide Movie Event

"I never dreamed I could work at a place like this." This is a quote from the main character, Cecil Gaines in the movie Lee Daniel's "The Butler." As he walks into the White House for his first day on his new job as a butler he reflects on his humble beginnings as a child "house Negro" in the segregated South during the early 20th century. Last month, the staff of the Disciples Center viewed the movie together as a building-wide educational and fellowship event. The event was complete with popcorn, pizza and pop (as well as surround sound) to set the environment for conversation to follow. The response to the event was enthusiastic, well-attended and the participation in the post-film reflection was generous.

Planned by the anti-racism teams of the Disciples Center who see as their charge to make accessible opportunities to advance our identity as a PR/AR church, this event served as a training event for ministry staffs requiring and desiring new anti-racism training opportunities. Viewing the movie as a building and staff-wide event afforded the participants a chance to engage in an opportunity to have an open dialogue about race in a safe and supporting environment.

The film inspired conversation by the way it allowed each viewer to see themselves in the characters, the values and the history depicted. The ensuing conversation was rich. People shared intimately about their

own lived experiences and their commitment to end racism. The event opened a dialogue not often shared with colleagues yet one that was inspiring and affirming of our church wide mission imperative to be a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist Church.

More often than is spoken, there is a hunger for authentic conversation and action to rid our church and country of the historic sin that has marked and marred its character for far too long. This event raised awareness about the continued concerns for justice facing our nation's black and brown citizens while also showing progress and acknowledging the grave amount of work still to be done. Even though the road seems long and difficult, let us be encouraged that we are actively pursuing ways to move forward by being informed and enlightened by honest conversation and a commitment to reconciliation of all of God's children. Like Cecil Gaines, who knows how wonderful a place God is calling us to work in our beloved Church.

*Rev. April Johnson
Minister of Reconciliation*

*Photo below: Minister
Sheila Spencer and Rev.
Ron Degges, (DHM)*



Beth Sullivan, OGMP



*Doris Speaks, National
Convocation*



*Photo right: Rev. Pat
Donahoo, Office of
Disciples Women*



Photo above: Staff members of Disciples Center attend a viewing of "The Butler" The event was sponsored by Reconciliation and the Disciples Center PR/AR Building Team. (Photo provided by Tonya Ellis, Church Extension)

Photo below: Members of the Disciples Center PRAR team. From left: Jessica Phillips, Christian Church Foundation; Tashana Robinson, Church Extension; Sharon Merchant, Hope Partnership, Rev. April Johnson, Minister for Reconciliation, Office of General Minister and President (OGMP); Lonna Owens, Disciples Home Missions (DHM); Brenda Tyler, (DHM) and Rachel Maxey, (OGMP). (All photos provided by Tonya Ellis, Church Extension)



Excerpt from “Young, Black Males: America’s Most Wanted” by Wendy Kellam

It’s Just Something About That Black
It’s just something about that Black that gives me pride
is it the stride or glide when we walk?

The pound dap, fist bump, the nod or sly eye contact
that tells me exactly what you mean on the inside joke
just reserved for you and me

It’s just something about that Black
is it the way the slave ran, hid and constantly tried
to survive?

or is it the way some were hung that made us want
to rise

is it the way President Obama proclaimed, “Yes we
can?”

or the way Michael glided across the stage and flicked
his hand

maybe it’s the way the brother ran in the Olympics
back in the day and we all shouted “Run! Run”

Or the way Whitney rocked the national anthem, the
way no one else has ever done

Or is it the way James Brown said, “Say it loud I’m
Black and I’m proud?” with no apology

Or the way Muhammad Ali become the greatest
because he stung like a bee

or is it the way R Kelly sung, “I believe I can fly?”

or is it the way Martinsville Seven, Emmett Till, Sean
Bell, Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis, Kendrick Johnson,
Jonathan Ferrell and many more made us cry

or is it the way Michael Jordan showed us how hard
work will make you great?

or is it the way Oprah became the richest woman and
heads her own estate?

Or is it the way Sojourner Truth asked, “Ain’t I a
woman?”

Or is it the way Martin had a dream

Or is it the way Obama increased Black men’s self-
esteem?

Or is it the way Michael Baisden, Tom Joyner, Russ
Parr, Steve Harvey rocked air waves calling out our
race when we’re doing wrong and also when we’re
right, giving us praise

Or is it the way Congresswoman Waters demand
justice for our race?

Or is it the way they dog our President but my man
keeps a smile on his face and maintains grace

Or is it the way Beyoncé and Jay-Z keep recreating
creativity allowing our minds to believe creativity is
a way to succeed?

Or is it the way J made “A Song Cry?”

then Mary came along and rocked us with “We Ride”

Or is it the way Mary Mary sings, “I wanna go to
heaven?”

Or the way Natalie sings, “I’m catching hell?”

Or is it the way Marvin realized, “He saw the best
in me?”

Or is it the way Johnny Cochran rocked it in Cali and
got “that guy” free?

Or is it the way Terry McMillan, Carl Weber, Nikki
T put a pencil to paper and made us want to read?

Or is it the way Dr. Steve Perry challenged the edu-
cational system so our kids can achieve?

Or is it the way Lil Wayne takes an adjective, turn
it inside out, outside in make it turn around again
and again

Or is it the way Pac rapped about “Dear Mama” and
“Keep Ya Head Up?”

Or is it the way we come together as a race when
we’ve gotten fed up?

Or is it the way Malcolm stood tall for injustices and
supported his race?

Or is it the way my parents always believed and
supported me?

Or is it the way my sister, Trisha, Sherine, Shelby
always kept it real, telling me what I didn’t want to
hear, calling me out when I may have been wrong,
but always hanging around keeping a sister strong?

Or is it the way Mr. Samuel Trott told every Black
youth, there isn’t anything you can’t achieve

Young Brothers, he was talking about YOU, because
in you is where he placed all his belief

Or is it the way TD Jakes speaks the word to me every
Sunday morning and fill my heart with praise?

Or is it the way Michalle Taylor sings a song so beauti-
fully and I’m always amazed?

Or is it the way Tamela Mann sings, “Take me to
the King?”

Young Brothers, open your hearts and minds and
walk into your dreams

Or is it the way Michael Vick fought back and got
redemption?

Come on young, Black males you must pay attention

Or is it the way our comedians talk about us and
make us laugh until we cry?

Or is it the way Jesus died on the cross and in three
days he arose again?

They tell me there was a bronze to his skin

Or is it the way I’m writing this to you and you un-
derstand me, because you know like I do,

Young Black Brothers, you have so much to be proud
of because there is and will always be

JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THAT BLACK!!!

Wendy Kellam, Hey Luv Project
Mt. Olive East Christian Church

Author of Young, Black Males America’s Most
Wanted?

2014 Summer DPF Interns Announced

The Executive Committee of the Disciples Peace Fellowship announces the appointment of the 2014 summer Peace Interns. They are:

Jonathan Cahill -- Originally from Pekin, Ill., where he is a member of First Christian Church. Jonathan is currently finishing his senior year at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. He brings a lot of valuable experiences to his DPF internship, including leading a Bible study in his fraternity, working as a Resident Assistant at his University and as a Disciples Home Missions Intern based in St. Louis last summer. Jonathan will be serving DPF as the Federated Church of West Lafayette's Sponsored Intern.

Cara McKinney -- Currently a senior at Bowling Green State University, Cara is majoring in Spanish and International Studies. She worked as a Disciples Home Missions Intern last summer in Deer Lodge, Tenn., and currently works as a Social Justice Program Associate for the InterReligious Task

Force on Central America and Colombia, a nonprofit in Cleveland. She attends Hiram Christian Church in Hiram, Ohio. Cara will be serving DPF as the Center for Public Witness and Disciples Women's Sponsored Intern.

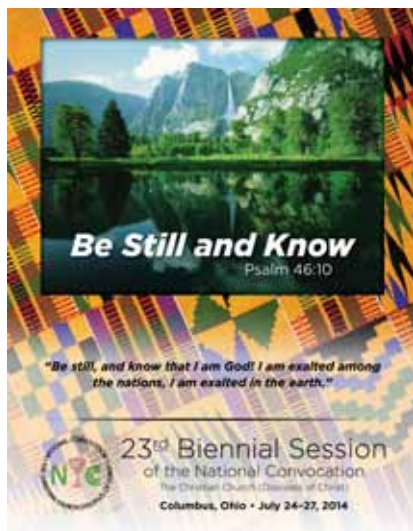
Daniel Lyvers -- Though Junior Daniel Lyvers now attends the Disciples-affiliated Transylvania University, he is originally from Bardstown, Ky., where he is a member of First Christian Church. At Transy, Daniel studies History and Political Science and has a particular interest in studies of Israel and Palestine. He has served his fraternity as the Service Chairman and as President, and helped to reorganize Transy's Disciples on Campus. He serves Crestwood Christian Church as a youth sponsor and has served on Camp Wa'Kon'DaHo's counseling staff.

DPF Executive Committee



Photos top to bottom:
Jonathan Cahill, Cara
McKinney and Daniel
Lyvers

23rd Biennial Session of the National Convocation



The 23rd Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be held on July 24 to 27, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North. The theme "Be Still and Know" comes from Psalm 46:10. Visit www.nationalconvocation.org.



NAPAD
North American Pacific/Asian Disciples
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



18th Biennial NAPAD Convocation

"Singing the Lord's Song
in the New Land"
- Psalm 137:4

DATE
August 6 (Wed) - 9 (Sat) 2014

LOCATION
University of Chicago
Disciples Divinity School, University Church & Hyde Park Union Church
1156 E. 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

Pre-events: Youth Leadership Program, Anti-racism & Reconciliation Training on August 5 (Tuesday) to 6 (Wednesday)

www.napad.net

Registration Information:
Rev. Jinsuk Chun, Executive Pastor of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples
130 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 / Tel: 317-713-2685 / jchun@napad.disciples.org

FCM Team *Continued from page 24.*

activities that can be expanded upon with their Vibrant Faith PLUS curriculum. There are blogs, resources for liturgical seasons, articles about dealing with tough situations, and even seasonal online retreats. Check it out at www.vibrantfaithathome.org.

- **Children's Disaster Service** -- You may have seen that Family and Children's Ministries has been in discussion with Week of Compassion, Disciples Volunteering, and the National Benevolent Association. These general units are working alongside the Church of the Brethren to provide volunteers who are ready to respond to the needs of children and families during a disaster. If you are interested in being trained as a volunteer, please take a look at the Children's Disaster Service website (www.brethren.org/cds) or contact our office.
- **Children Worship & Wonder** -- This program, based on the book *Young Children and Worship*, continues to engage many of our children in worship, community, and relating to the biblical story. There are still

many Disciples congregations, however, that have yet to discover the program or have existing programs in need of some new life. Check out our website for a short video presentation and information on how to register for one of our many trainings: www.discipleshomemissions.org/children-worship-wonder.

- **Almost Christian** by Kenda Dean -- The Disciples Youth Ministry Network (DYMN) met with Kenda Dean earlier this year for their annual retreat. If you weren't there, you missed out. To say it was wonderful would be an understatement. Kenda Dean's information and insights are something every pastor needs to know as we move into a new way to be and do church. Do not miss out on this book, its study, or Kenda Dean's upcoming book. All of them are grounded in major research projects that give clear answers to the needs of our churches: <http://kendadean.com>.
- **Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus** by David M. Csinos & Ivy Beckwith -- Ivy is the Faith Formation Team Leader for the United Church of Christ and is one of the overseers of our ministry. She, like us, is new to this position, but her skills and insights into family and children's ministry are well known across denominational lines. This book is her most current publication. In addition to this resource, I encourage you to check out her other writings, as well as her participation in the Faith Forward movement. www.ivypress.com/cgi-ivypress/book.pl/code=4108

*Rev. Dr. Olivia Bryan Updegrove
Family and Children's Ministry*



The Disciples' Advocate is published three times annually by the Division of Homeland Ministries, Inc.; doing ministry as Disciples Home Missions; P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1986; phone (317) 713-2639; e-mail editor@dhm.disciples.org. The Disciples' Advocate welcomes letters to the editor and advertisements from organizations listed in the Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. All letters sent to the Disciples' Advocate will be treated as intended for publication and are subject to the Disciples' Advocate's unrestricted right to edit or comment editorially. Specifications for advertising insertions are available on request. There is no charge for advertising from covenantal Disciples organizations. Insertions and notices are freely accepted subject to space.

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For approximately \$1.95 per copy we will ship your congregation copies of the Advocate. Place your congregation's bundle subscription order with Wilma Shuffitt at wshuffitt@dhm.disciples.org or call 317-713-2639.



Division of Homeland Ministries
of the Christian Church
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

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Pre-Convocation Lay and Clergy Leadership Institute 23rd Biennial Session of the National Convocation

Be Still and Know...Your Passion

Psalm 46:10

Lay Leaders Institute

A series of workshops to *inspire and strengthen* your gifts and passions

Clergy Institute

Rev. Dr. William Lee will lead *“Living Your Passions Inside/Out”*

Cost: \$50(includes breakfast and lunch) Register: nationalconvocation.org

**Thursday, July 24, 2014 | Crowne Plaza Columbus North
9:00 am – 4:00 pm | Columbus, Ohio**



Co-Sponsored by The Institute for African American Faith and Life, Black Disciples Endowment Fund and The African American Clergy Leadership Development Office

