

African American Disciples Woman

A Newsletter produced by Disciples Women of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

IDWM Cabinet Meeting 2009

February 2009

The International Disciples Women Ministries of the Christian Church opened up the New Year in a new way! The Cabinet meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, brought together over 100 women leaders who encouraged each other. Here is a small sample of some of our resources. Go online and grow as a Disciples Woman:

Just Women Magazine: *Just Women* (Embracing Life) is the official new resource and Bible Study for Disciples Women Ministries provided by International Disciples Women's Ministries and the Office of Disciples Women. The January issue has been released. There are online study guides and reading lists for book clubs. These online sources can be used for your personal or group devotional time. Subscribe online at www.JustWomenMagazine.org

Women's Action Web – WAW is a week long experience through a region which exposes women to a wide variety of services to the least, the last, and the lost in a community. The biennial Women's Action Web is a mission experience designed to help women look at their own communities with new eyes and take personal responsibility for the mission of Jesus Christ into the world. The WAW trip for 2009 will be in Michigan, October 4 to 10. More info coming to www.discipleswomen.org.

Called, Gifted and Sent – This is an annual resource available free online containing expanded information on all of the programs and resources available for women. Information is included for leadership, justice and service, spiritual growth, outreach and social action projects and resources available through the Office of Disciples

Women. This is available as a free download at www.discipleswomen.org

Quadrennial Assembly – Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina for Quadrennial. The theme is "Awake, Awake!" based on Judges 5:12a. This event is held every four years and is an opportunity for networking, fellowship, worship and leadership training for all women. The dates are June 23 to 27, 2010 in Greensboro, NC. Go to www.quadrennial.org for more information. Register begins at the General Assembly this summer!

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide: WWW is a mission/study experience which enables women to personally meet with and begin to understand the needs and issues of people in other countries. This program has taken women all over the world. Lives are changed, understandings broadened, congregations transformed, mission enhanced and issues facing us as Christians in a global community are lifted up through this ministry. This year the journey will take us to Venezuela/ Colombia. The dates are November 8 to 23. Applications are available online at www.discipleswomen.org.



Memories from WWW 2008 Journey



Women helping women via Habitat For Humanity.

What's in a name? You tell us!

Name: A word, term or phrase by which something is known and distinguished from other people or things.

We still need your

help. The Newsletter is searching for a new name. Short and Snappy. Be creative and send your suggestions to odw@dhm.disciples.org with a subject line of "Newsletter Name".

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Building Our Home, Sheila P. Spencer

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock."

Matthew 7: 24 -25

"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 19, 2009
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Today, a group of us celebrated the true spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. by dedicating this day to service. The Disciples Women's Ministries in partnership with Disciples Volunteering and Habitat for Humanity helped to build a house for a great young lady named Adrianna Harvey, her two boys and her godson.



She was the recipient of a Habitat for Humanity home and the Disciples Women dedicated their time during this week in January to help prepare the house for her move. She

is an incredible woman who believes in going beyond what is expected. Adrianna completed her required 300 sweat-equity hours, yet she didn't stop reporting to the worksite. She didn't want to slow down and wait until she was assigned a house. Instead she continued to report to the Habitat worksite and the hours she worked were donated to a fellow homeowner. She was committed to achieving her dream of home ownership and the Disciples Women were committed to helping her achieve this dream.

We received an orientation on the eve of the first day of the Women's Build. Our leader shared several important things to keep in mind as we worked together on the project.

1. Be flexible. Assignments and schedules were always open to change. An ability to be flexible will help the process go smoother.
2. Be spiritual. We are building a physical house, but we are also building relationships and being living examples of Jesus Christ.
3. Be sensitive. Look out for the needs of others. Be aware and concerned about those around you.
4. Be safe. Look out for the well being of those around you.

Reflecting on these directions. I realized that these instructions could be applied as we live out our daily lives.

1. Be flexible. Life doesn't always have a fixed schedule and we need to be open to change. Being open and flexible makes life easier.
2. Be spiritual. Remember that we are ambassadors for Christ in all we do, work, school, church and play.
3. Be sensitive. Be loving and caring to the others who are around us.
4. Be safe. We should always be able to trust and depend on each other.

We are here because we build each other up and invest in each others' lives. Give each foundational words to live on. Build each other up. Give each other encouragement and give them words to build a life on.

*Blessed to be a blessing to you,
Sheila P. Spencer*



Mt. Pleasant Christian Church, Greensboro NC, hosted a dinner one night.

Meet your past, Rosa Brown Bracey

Rosa Brown grew up in Port Gibson, Mississippi, the daughter of a pastor. At twelve, she entered the Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, Mississippi. In 1917, Rosa Brown became the first Field Secretary for Negro Work with the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. After 1920, she worked as staff member for both the newly-formed United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) and the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC). After marriage, Mrs. Bracey, sometimes known as the "Sojourner Truth" of Black Disciples of Christ, worked until retirement in 1938. She continued her efforts as a missionary to the African American disciples until her death, at which time she was President of the NCMC's Christian Women Fellowship. We thank Rosa Brown Bracey for helping to build a foundation and legacy for all the women.



Picture is from the holdings of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Thank you, Rosa Brown Bracey.

Cabinet/Staff Fellowship 2009 Reflections,

by Roslyn Cunningham

Note: Roslyn Cunningham, a seminarian from Oregon, is a member of the 2008 Leader Apprentice Class. She, along with her class members, attended the January 2009 Cabinet/Staff Fellowship Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. It was a moving experience for her. Here are some of her reflections:

As a member of the Leader Apprentice Class, and on behalf of myself and my sisters, attending the 2009 Cabinet / Staff Fellowship Meeting of IDWM has been a valuable and blessed opportunity. The Leader Apprentice Program is a program that identifies and trains new talent and potential among the women of color in the Disciples of Christ Women's Ministries (IDWM) throughout the United States.

After a joyful praise and prayer opening, we were treated to some new developments within the IDWM. Every attendee received a CD of all of the ministries and resources available to DOC Women. Imagine! A gold mine of information with one click. In addition we were introduced to the inaugural issue of "Just Women" magazine. This is the new magazine/resource aimed at women of all

ages and is full of inspiration, encouragement, more about the mission trip to Bosnia, as well as helpful articles and tips for keeping healthy, stress free and steadfast in our faith.

The upcoming Quadrennial Assembly, with its emphasis on Social Action, is an event we are all eagerly anticipating. It will take place in Greensboro, NC, in 2010 and more information will be available at the ODW website. We were sworn to secrecy about what's in store so you'll have to come to find out!

After a few more updates we broke off into small groups for workshop sessions.

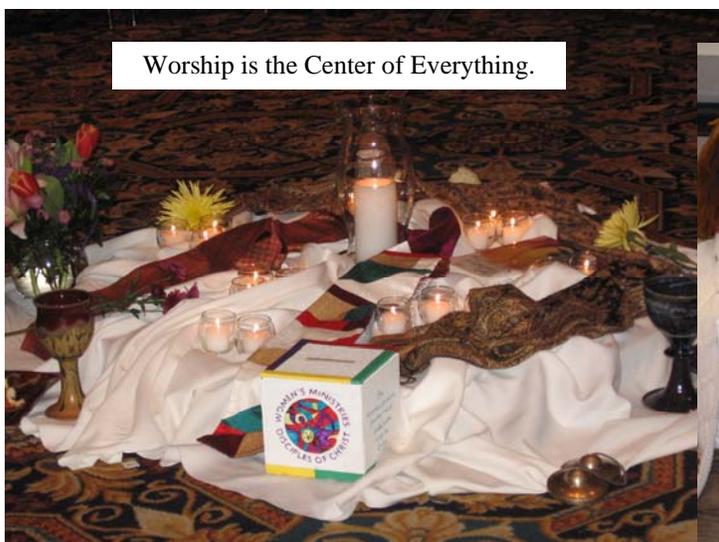
Upon our return from lunch, several of the 2008 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide participants shared their experiences from their trip to Israel/Palestine. They shared some of the beautiful pictures and handwork made by the Israeli and Palestinian women.

Sheila Spencer provided information about the upcoming mission trip to Colombia and Venezuela

and several past participants shared how participating in these mission trips changes your life forever.

We received more information about women's resources available for us to take back to our regions and were updated on the happenings around the church including the National Convocation, Hispanic and NAPAD divisions.

In closing, I would like to say that this was a most informative and faith building experience for me. *As Christian women, our work should never be limited to Sunday services but rather to every area of our lives.* These women displayed a commitment, courage and joy that I will never forget and I can only pray that God equips myself and my LAP sisters to follow in their footsteps as we give our all to the Glory of God.



2008—2010 Officers of the
National Convocation Disciples Women

President	Patricia Bluiitt (Southwest)
1st Vice President	Pamela Dubose (Mississippi)
2nd Vice President	Marilyn Williams (North Carolina)
Immediate Past President	Daisy Chambers (North Carolina)
Member at Large	Karen Barrett (California)
Member-at-Large	Kathy Davis (Virginia)
Chaplain	Almetia Brown (South Carolina)
Secretary	Brenda Etheridge (Michigan)
Treasurer & Staff	Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women)



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Connection Section

General Assembly 2009
July 29 to August 2, 2009

BIG Change for Disciples Women!!!!

The Women's Lunch has moved from the last day of the General Assembly to the first full day—Thursday, July 30, 2009.

When you complete your online registration for General Assembly at <http://www.disciples.org/> (look on the left hand side for the link to GA), you will be able to purchase your luncheon tickets with a credit card. For those who prefer to write a check for the luncheon ticket; you may purchase the ticket through the Office of Disciples Women for \$25 each. The order form is posted on our web site at www.discipleswomen.org.

You will be able to register for Quadrennial 2010 at the General Assembly. Be among the first to sign-up.



Stay connected with African-American Disciples Women - If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail us at odw@dhm.disciples.org; include "African American Disciples Women Newsletter" in your subject line; you will be added.



Sister Share

Help us fill this space... We want to hear your joys, concerns and how your Women's ministry is transforming lives. **God is awesome!** Share what He has done for you or your group at odw@dhm.disciples.org.

Congratulations to Rev. Brenda Etheridge



November 2009 ordination of Brenda Etheridge, 2008 to 2010 secretary for National Convocation Disciples Women



Thanking Brenda for past IDWM leadership as 2002 to 2006 president is Adonna Bowman, Executive Director ODW

Great Dates

July 29 to August 2, 2009 General Assembly Indianapolis, IN
July 30, 2009 Disciples Women's Lunch
July 30, 2009 National Convocation Dinner at Marriott Hotel. Visit www.disciples.org/convo for more info.

October 4 to October 10, 2009 Women's Action Web Michigan Region

November 8 to 23, 2009 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide Venezuela and Colombia

June 23 to 27, 2010 Quadrennial Assembly Greensboro, NC

July 28 to August 2, 2010 National Convocation Charleston, SC

www.disciples.org/convo

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