After thirty years of meritorious service, Lorenzo J. Evans retired from the Division of Christian Missionary Society (UCMS). Lori-zeno J. Evans was the first group of field services on the staff of the Depart-ment of Christian Education in the United Missionary Convention. She is the author of “Women On A Mission” which explores the lives and legacies of Disciples African American women. Her book chronicles the lives of Carnella Jamison Barnes, Sarah Rue Bostick, Rosa Brown Bracey, Janice Newborn, Odatta Redd and Sybel Thomas. Mel- via Fields life and the lives of the women she highlights in “Women On A Mission” is the topic of the Disciples Women DVD Study resource, “Wisdom of Women – Volume 2” and is accompanied by a study guide and worship resources.

Ms. Fields co-authored In Other Words-Stories of African American Involvement in the Early years of the Stone-Campbell Move-ment in Kentucky with her daughter, the Rev. Sharon B. Fields.

Lorenzo Evans was Program Secretary for the Butler Street YMCA in Atlanta when he joined the National Convention office in 1946 in India-polis as Director of Education. In 1960-61, Evans became one of the first group of merger staff becoming national director. His years of service were recognized with the award of Membership in the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention. He is the author of “Women On A Mission”, the Disciples Women DVD Study resource, “Wisdom of Women – Volume 2” and is accompanied by a study guide and worship resources.

A Partial List of African American Inventors
Compiled by C. Butler and Charles Isbell

E.H. Sutton          Cotton cultivator                  April 7, 1878
Granville T. Woods  Electromechanical brake           August 16, 1887
Granville T. Woods  Railway telegraphy                November 15, 1887
Granville T. Woods  Induction telegraph system        November 29, 1887
Granville T. Woods  Overhead conducting system for    May 29, 1888
B.F. Jackson         Gas burner                         April 4, 1899
C.B. Brooks          Street-sweepers                    March 17, 1896
Henry Blair          Corn planter                      October 14, 1834
E.H. Sutton          Cotton planter                    August 31, 1836
Granville T. Woods  Electric railway                  June 26, 1888
Granville T. Woods  Overhead electric railway system  June 26, 1888
Granville T. Woods  Gas masks                          May 26, 1872
Granville T. Woods  Fire extinguisher (variation)     December 27, 1884
Henry Blair          Cotton planter                    August 31, 1836
Granville T. Woods  Overhead electric railway system  June 26, 1888
Granville T. Woods  Gas masks                          May 26, 1872
Granville T. Woods  Railway telegraphy                November 15, 1887
Granville T. Woods  Induction telegraph system        November 29, 1887
Granville T. Woods  Overhead conducting system for    May 29, 1888
W.R. Davis, Jr.      Library table                      September 24, 1878
P. W. Cornwall        Draft Regulator                    February 7, 1893
A.L. Cralle           Ice-cream mold                      February 2, 1897
G. Cook              Automatic fishing device               May 10, 1899
J. Cooper            Elevator device                     April 2, 1895
F. Flemings, Jr.     Guitar (variation)                 March 3, 1886
W.C. Carter          Umbrella stand                     August 4, 1885
L.C. Bailey          Folding bed                         July 18, 1879
H. Spears            Portable shield for infantry        September 24, 1878
Elijah McCoy         Lubricator for steam engines           July 2, 1872
F. Flemings, Jr.     Guitar (variation)                 March 3, 1886
John Cooper          Elevator device                     April 2, 1895
Clarence L. Elder    Occustat                          1976
Salome Austin        Ironing board                      April 6, 1899
Norbert Rillieux     Sugar refining process             1846
Granville T. Woods  Electromechanical brake           August 16, 1887
C.J. Dorticus        Machine for embossing photo         April 16, 1895
Garrett A. Morgan    Gas mask                          1897
E.R. Sutton          Cotton cultivator                  April 7, 1878
Sarah Boone          Ironing board                      April 6, 1899
Henry Blair          Cotton planter                    August 31, 1836
Granville T. Woods  Overhead electric railway system  June 26, 1888
Granville T. Woods  Gas masks                          May 26, 1872
Granville T. Woods  Railway telegraphy                November 15, 1887
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African American History Month
2016

We should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, foregone, or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved, and perpetuated.

African American History Month
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February 2016

Beloved Community:
One of the most treasured items in my home is a piece of artwork from a journey to Ghana. It is a bird with its head turned backwards and represents Sankofa. It is also represented as a stylized heart shape. Sankofa is a word in the Twi language of Ghana that translates as “Go back and get it” (san - to return; ko - to go; fa - to fetch, to seek and take) It is often associated with the proverb, “Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi,” which translates as “It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten.” It is a timely symbol and reminder of the importance of knowing the past to understand the future.

“To go back to your roots is to take the first step FORWARD. For it is in the past we find the path that leads to the present. And from the present we move on to the future.”

We are pleased to share resources and inspiration for African American History Month, but by no means does this mean, that using these resources is limited to only one month of the year. The history of African Americans is woven into the tapestry of America. African American History has impacted history of our church, family, community, and world. We give special attention to the lives of African American Disciples who have committed their life and ministry to be a blessing to the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I encourage you to explore the resources for worship, study and education. Visit the websites listed that are full of resources and discovery.

Blessed to be a blessing to you,

Sheila P. Spencer
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Emmett J. Dickson

Emmet Dickson was the only Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC) for approximately 50 years. Dickson personally recruited and transported many future leaders to Jarvis Christian College. In 1960-61, Dickson became one of the first group of merger staff becoming national director of church relations on the staff of the Division of Church Life and Work in the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) later to be known as the Department of Homeland Ministries. Rev. Dickson later dedicated himself to the opening of the Piedmont Tri-State’s Christian View Camp and Conference Grounds on June 30, 1974.

Odatta Redd

Odatta Redd has served on the General Board and General Nominating Committee. She was vice-president of the International Christian Women’s Fellowship (ICWF) from 1986 to 1990. Redd has served in several capacities of the Regional Church in Virginia, as well as on the Virginia CWF Cabinet.

Thomas Buchanan Frost

Professor T. B. Frost was the first teacher at Jarvis Christian College. Frost arrived on the raw forty acre site in 1911. He repaired two cabins left by a lumber camp and brought his family to join him. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acre land parcel cleared and under cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. He then served as the Superintendent of Industries until 1922.

ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History) -- Established on September 9, 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ASALH are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of the founder, the father of Black History. ASALH’s mission is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History, to be, in short, the nexus between the Ivy Tower and the global public. ASALH site has information on resources for teachers and oral history projects. Go to www.asalh.org

Wisdom of Women Volume 2 -- Shares the life of Melvia Anderson Fields. She was born and reared in Bourbon County, Kentucky, which is near historic Cane Ridge. She is an African American author, leader, historian and inspiration. She is the author of “Women On A Mission”, a book about African American women who were integral parts of the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This just scratches the surface of this remarkable woman. It consists of 60 to 90 minutes of conversation and wisdom, edited into short six to ten-minute segments. A study guide with questions for reflection and conversation after each segment accompanies each DVD. The cost is $29.95. For information on the DVD Study Series and the book, “Women On A Mission”, go to www.discipleshomemissions.org/wisdom-of-women

Black Disciples Who Made A Difference Series -- This is a series of publications that highlights the life and achievements of African American Disciples who have made an impact in the life of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. These materials are available for free download at www.discipleshomemissions.org/african-american-resources

The Cost of Unity: African American Agency and Education among the Christian Church 1865-1914 (Voices of the African Diaspora) -- Macon, GA: Lawrence Burnley Mercer University Press, 2008. This book examines the agency of African-Americans in the founding of educational institutions for blacks associated with the Christian Church. The philosophical discourse within the Christian Church concerning the purpose, type, and control of these schools is examined as well as the prevailing racial assumptions and attitudes that informed each of these areas. For more info go to www.mupress.org/productdetails.cfm

For Loves Sake is a book by The Rev. John Foulkes. Published by the National Convocation and available for sale through GWD Ministries at norman.reed@att.net.

Lift Every Voice and Sing – sometimes referred to as “Black National Anthem” is a song written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) in 1899 and set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954) in 1900.

I Have A Dream -- This poetic and provocative short film has been created to inspire communities to ask the question: how far have we come on the journey to social justice and what must be done to achieve the dream so eloquently articulated in 1963? www.saltproject.org/christian-video-resources-for-small-groups/i-have-a-dream