Melvia Anderson Fields

Melvia Anderson Fields was born and reared in Bourbon County, Kentucky, which is near historic Cane Ridge. She is a writer, teacher, Women's Ministry leader, historian and inspiration. During her rich life, she has served as a Bible School teacher and youth director. She also has a passion for Disciples Women Ministry, serving in leadership in her local congregation, her region and within the Kentucky Christian 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 Lue Bostick, Rosa Brown Bracey, Janice Newborn, Odatta Redd and Sybel Thomas. Melvia 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 Movement in Kentucky with her daughter, the Rev. Sharon B. Fields.

Lorenzo J. Evans

Lorenzo Evans was the first African American staff of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the area of Christian Education. Rev. Evans was a co-founder of the Star Supporter Fund. Evans was Program Secretary for the Butler Street YMCA in Atlanta when he joined the National Convention office in 1946 in Indianapolis as Director of Education. In 1960-61, Evans became one of the first group of merger staff becoming national director of field services on the staff of the Department of Christian Education in the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS). Lorenzo J. Evans retired from the Division of Homeland Ministries (formerly the United Christian Missionary Society) now dba Disciples Home Missions, on June 30, 1974 after thirty years of meritorious service.

A Partial List of African American Inventors

Compiled by C. Butler and Charles Isbell

African American History Month

National Museum of African American History & Culture

2018
Emmett J. Dickson

Emmett Dickson was the only Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC) for approximately 50 years. Dickson personal relationships with 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. Dickson reached the dedication sermon of the opening of the Piedmont Tri-State’s Christian View Camp and Conference Grounds on June 30, 1974.

Odetta Redd

Odetta 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 company. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acres in cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acres in cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acres in cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acres in cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acres in cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acres in cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal.

African American Disciples Resources

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 Ivory Tower and the global public. We labor in the service of Blacks and all humanity. When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public’s attention important developments that merit emphasis. The 2018 theme, “African Americans in Times of War,” commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The First World War was initially termed by many as “The Great War” “The War to End All Wars,” and the war “to make the world safe for democracy.” The ASALH site has information on resources for teachers and oral history projects. To 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 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 publications are available for free download at www.discipleshomemissions.org/african-american-resources

The Cost of Unity: African American Agency and Education and 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 www.mupress.org/productdetails.cfm

African American Heritage Hymnal: 575 Hymns, Spirituals, and Gospel Songs by Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter -- Eight years of inspired work by a committee of more than 30 musicians and pastors, all leaders in African American worship and gospel music, have resulted in this comprehensive hymnal. It represents the common repertoire of African American churches across the United States. For the first time in an African American hymnal, traditional hymns and songs are notated to reflect performance practices found in the oral tradition of the black church in America. At a time when such traditions are falling victim to modern technology, this book strives to preserve this rich heritage for future generations. Presented are liturgies for “Fifty-Two Sundays of Worshipful Celebration” outlining an African American church year, including such special days as Martin Luther King Sunday, Elders’ Day, Mother’s Day, and Men’s Day. Also included are 52 responsive readings from the Old and New Testaments and an extensive index that includes scriptural and thematic cross-references.

The MLK50 Pledge -- Join the National Civil Rights Museum in committing to a year of peace and action. Over the course of 50 weeks, the Museum will send you 50 achievable actions that realize Dr. King’s legacy of peace. mlk50.civilrightsmuseum.org/mlk50-pledge

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 “The Black National Anthem.” 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 King so eloquently articulated in 1963? www.saltproject.org/christian-video-resources-for-small-groups/i-have-a-dream