



KANSAS MESSENGER

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

www.kansasdisciples.org



VOL. 115, NO. 4 November 2011



Christmas Offering Supports the Ministries of Christian Church in Kansas

Your generosity makes a difference! In this newspaper you find news of regional church ministries:

Vern Failor honored at Gala for his service as Camp Host;

The annual women's retreats at which Amy Gopp excited and informed the women with her stories of what is happening with women worldwide, and the ways that we take part in the change;

Information about KDYC and spring retreats for youth and the Spiritual Retreat for any who want to deepen their spiritual life, and more!

When you donate to the Christmas Offering, you help make these ministries happen. 100% of the offering remains in Kansas.

Your gifts to the Christmas Offering support church camp.

Your gifts to the Christmas Offering provide support to congregations seeking new pastors.

Your gifts to the Christmas Offering provide resources, ideas, and support for congregations in New Beginnings, for those seeking help with stewardship education, and for those who want a listening ear and the shared wisdom of regional ministry staff.

Your generosity makes a difference! Are these ministries and more worth as much to you as a dinner out with your family? Please consider increasing your gift by the amount you spend for such an evening. If this is your first year to support the Christmas offering, consider the cost of an evening with your family as a starting point—or any amount that fits your budget and reflects the value that the ministries of the Christian Church in Kansas add to your life. Every gift helps! Thank you!

Coming Events:

KDYC (youth), Hutchinson, Nov. 11-13 Page 6

Chi Rho Retreat, Tawakoni, February 17-19 Page 6

KCYF Spring Retreat, Tawakoni, March 2-4 Page 6

Regional Spiritual Retreat, Great Bend, March 14-17 Page 3

International Affairs Seminar, New York & Washington D.C. March 16-24



Photo Courtesy of Gina Middlebusher-

Ottawa Church Family Receives Extreme Makeover

Staff Sgt. Allen Hill was nearly killed by a roadside bomb on November 21, 2007. The physical wounds to his body have healed but the traumatic brain injury persists. Loud noises, dimly lit spaces, and long hallways trigger episodes of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which send him running for cover.

The Hill family includes Allen's wife Gina and sons Makale and Dreyson. They are active members of First Christian Church in Ottawa, along with Gina's parents Loren and Sharon Middlebusher and her sister Chris Middlebusher. All were present when the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition bus arrived.

Instead of replacing an older house as is normally done, EM: HE built a "quiet house" for the family in a different part of town. Their former home was near a rock quarry with frequent blasting explosions, and near the railroad with additional loud noise. Until the new house was ready, Hill was unable to live in his home and has been in a VA facility in California. While the home was being built, the family, pictured above, was treated to a vacation at Yosemite National Park.

Actress Glenn Close nominated the Hill family for the EM: HE episode. She founded the organization Bring Change 2 Mind, which educates about mental illness and offers emotional and financial support for families dealing with the effects of mental illnesses including PTSD. Close is also involved with Puppies Behind Bars, which employs prisoners to train service dogs for wounded veterans. Hill's service dog Frankie has helped him tremendously.

Peace Offerings

Paxton Jones, Regional Minister

Regional staff serve long-term



forget that I was on sabbatical, and they handled with creativity, tact and skill the inevitable challenges that arose.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to go on sabbatical—and to come back!

* * * * *

I am excited to have Jim McCollough on board as our part-time Minister of Stewardship Education. It's evident based on the requests he's received to preach and lead workshops that we've needed such a position for quite some time. It's also evident from the reported responses of those who have heard him that his message is being heard.

Along those same lines, if you missed the TEAM2 event at the end of August then you missed an opportunity for excellent training from another powerful presenter. Bruce Barkhauer, Minister of Faith & Giving for the Disciples, was masterful in presenting the concept of 'stewardship' as a way of faithful living. Among the significant biblical ideas he shared with us were these:

- Stewardship is NOT fund-raising!
- Stewardship is NOT a duty; it is a discipline.
- Stewardship is NOT an obligation.
- Stewardship is NOT just about responsibility; it is about relationship(s).
- Stewardship is NOT a job; it is a joy.

On the other hand,

- Stewardship IS about choices.
- It is choosing to live in the theology of "enough" rather than in the fear of scarcity.
- It is choosing to live in accountability to Jesus' teaching that we are to love our neighbor.
- Stewardship IS the fruit of our maturity, our transformation into followers of God's way.
- Stewardship IS living in grateful response to our generous God.

Jim—or any other regional church staff member—will be delighted to explore these concepts further with you. Just ask!

Grace and peace,
Pax

In an age when both employers and employees tend to change every few years, the Christian Church in Kansas prefers to keep its staff for a while. Nancy Ferrell, Receptionist in the Topeka office, has been with us since September 22, 1981, for 30 years of service.

Seven months later, Kathy Foster became Administrative Assistant (AA) in the Great Bend office on April 26, 1982. On September 3, Executive Secretary Susan White completed 15 years of service.

Others with many years of service include Associate Regional Minister (ARM) Steve Martin, whose 15th anniversary will be April 15, 2012, Regional Minister Paxton Jones who completed 13 years on October 1, and Bookkeeper Kelli Wischmeier who began working for CCK on August 20, 2001.

Remaining staff and their start dates are Disciples Women Coordinator Barb Runge, June 2005; ARM Ken Marston, January 2008; ARM Renee Bridwell, March 2008; Minister of Stewardship Education Jim McCollough, July 2011, and Elaine Ekstedt, AA in the South Central office, July 2011.

Kansas Regional Office

2914 SW MacVicar Ave.
Topeka, KS 66611-1787
Phone: 785-266-2914
Toll free: 800-737-8130
Fax: 785-266-0174
cck@kansasdisciples.org

Paxton Jones

Regional Minister & President
Transformation Ministry Priority
Northeast District
pjones@kansasdisciples.org

Steve Martin

Deputy Regional Minister
Camp Administrator
Southeast District
smartin@kansasdisciples.org

Jim McCollough

Minister of Stewardship Education
jimcollough@cox.net

Barb Runge

Disciples Women Coordinator
runge2@cox.net

Susan White

Executive Secretary

Nancy Ferrell

Reception and Registrations

Kelli Wischmeier

Bookkeeper

Satellite Office

Central & High Plains

5230 Broadway Avenue
Great Bend, KS 67530-3208
Phone: 620-792-6490
Fax: 620-792-1268
chp@kansasdisciples.org

Ken Marston

Associate Regional Minister
Spirituality Ministry Priority
Kansas Disciples Men
Clergy Care
Central & High Plains Districts
kmarston@kansasdisciples.org

Kathy Foster

Administrative Assistant
Ministry Records

Serving in Guatemala

Global Mission Partner
Gloria Vicente

Satellite Office

South Central

8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta, KS 67010-8111
Phone: 316-775-1236
Fax: 316-775-1455
scd@kansasdisciples.org

Renee Bridwell

Associate Regional Minister
New Church Priority
Kansas Messenger Editor
Treasurer
South Central District
rbridwell@kansasdisciples.org

Elaine Ekstedt

Administrative Assistant
Kansas Messenger Copy Editor
Webmaster

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Phone: 316-775-1222

MESSENGER READERS:

Make a difference! The *Kansas Messenger* is mailed FREE to every member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas. Printing, postage, equipment and staff time are supported by your donations. Will you help? Send your check for \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 or any amount today to:

Christian Church in Kansas
2914 SW MacVicar Ave.
Topeka, KS 66611-1787

Your entire gift will pay expenses for the *Kansas Messenger*.

Out of state subscription is \$15 annually.

(ISSN#0274-7480 USPS#290-740) is published quarterly by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas, Inc., 2914 SW MacVicar, Topeka, KS 66611. Periodical postage paid at Topeka, KS and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE KANSAS MESSENGER, 2914 SW MACVICAR, TOPEKA, KS 66611

The *Kansas Messenger* is prepared in the South Central Satellite Office, Augusta, KS in association with the Regional Church Office, Topeka, KS.

Disciples Distinctiveness – Why It Matters

Baptism

By Pat Easton

the pen name of a collective of Kansas Disciples clergy

At the beginning of our movement the Christians at Cane Ridge Meeting House continued to practice baptism just as they had as Presbyterians; by effusion, christening of infants, “sprinkling” as it was sometimes called. In 1812 Thomas and Alexander Campbell came to their momentous understanding that baptism by immersion was the norm in scripture; that the baptism of infants had no basis in scripture. They gathered the Brush Run Church at Buffalo Creek, in southwestern Pennsylvania, where a Baptist preacher friend baptized Thomas, Alexander, their wives and three others. Historians report that they also preached on the subject for four hours!

The Campbells assured those who had been sprinkled that they need not be re-baptized to guarantee their salvation, but that immersion spoke more eloquently about dying into Christ to live as a disciple of Jesus. That moment shapes our church to this day.

At that time the Campbells did not acknowledge any connection between baptism and the forgiveness of sin; their understanding was still forming. From then to now our understanding and appreciation of baptism continues to change and grow.

By the time of the Civil War our understanding of baptism drifted into two basic groups: those who welcomed Christians baptized by any form, and those who insisted on the certainty of immersion granting salvation. These diverse views contributed to the 1910 split between us and the Church of Christ.

During the 20th century additional thoughts about the nature of baptism influenced our congregations. Because each congregation is free to adopt their own membership practices, some have ignored the Campbell view and limited church membership to the immersed, and those who consent to immersion. Lately, this view has mostly given way to the “open membership” that the Campbells originally espoused.

In his popular book, *We Call Ourselves Disciples*, Kenneth Teegarden writes that our understandings about baptism are at least six: 1] With Alexander Campbell some agree that baptism is “... a sort of embodiment of the gospel, and a solemn expression of it all in a single act.” 2] It re-presents the death, burial of the old self, and the birth of a new being in Christ. 3] It is a process of salvation as Walter Scott expressed with his Five Finger Exercise – “faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins, gifts of the Holy Spirit.” 4] It initiates us into the church. 5] It is an ordination into the priesthood of all believers. 6] It is a conscious response of a believer to God’s gift of faith. In every Disciple congregation there are some if not all of these understandings.

Once we were among the few who practiced adult baptism by immersion. Today many churches have reconsidered their baptism traditions and also immerse. Our ecumenical conversations, especially those in the 1970s and 80s by the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, have brought much of this about.

Nurturing Your Spirit

By Danny Ginn



What are your spiritual intentions? If you don’t have an answer, these questions might help. Do you intend to quit sinning, to keep on sinning, or to keep your current levels of sinfulness? Here’s another—do you intend to become like Christ in your loving, to love God with all your heart, your thoughts, your body, and your entire being? Do you love your neighbor—and your enemy—as yourself?

Spiritual intentions are rare; many Christians are floating, passive. Are you reactive rather than spiritually intentional? If so, you are never prepared for what happens. Do you think your challenges are bigger than your faith? If you are reacting to circumstances rather than preparing for them, try getting intentional about your spiritual life. Spend time with God. Be intentional. It beats trying to find God after things fly apart!

The Church Beyond Our Borders

~~ from our Global Mission Partner ~~

Greetings Kansas Region!

On behalf of our family we send many greetings and blessings your way!

In my last update I was beginning to organize a group of women to oversee the development of a project specifically for women since they are the most socially, politically and culturally excluded in this area. Because of many challenges and the constant scrutiny by some of the male leadership, the women’s group almost ended. However, some of our efforts in search for truth and justice allowed the women to continue.

A week ago we had a fifth gathering where I worked with the women on a survey to gather data that could help me have a better idea as to the nature of their communities. By this I mean, finding out if their homes are adobe, cement block or wood, and about their living situations, family income, access to health care and other services. The project will focus on learning weaving techniques and sewing skills. The purpose is to rescue traditional techniques and provide an alternate, cost-efficient way for women to clothe themselves and their families, and perhaps, have an income. We look forward to having women play a leading role in executing the project as well as to benefit from this effort.

Working with indigenous women has been a rewarding and frustrating experience for me, when I both witness and experience discrimination as a woman and as a female missionary partner. The rewarding experience is being embraced and welcomed by the women and being acknowledged for helping women find their own voice and strength. Some of the elder women in the group, who may have as little as a third grade education or none at all speak of the importance of my work with them and my being a role model as someone they want to learn from and work with. Their strength and courage gives me peace of mind and hope for a change in their lives. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thank you to all our churches in the Kansas Region for reading my updates. This may be my last update for the year and possibly as missionary serving in Guatemala. Despite the uncertainty of a renewed ministry or a renewed ministry with the same partner, please continue to pray as this work has not been easy or safe. With the coming new government there is a great possibility that the level of violence and insecurity in the country will increase. Both my husband and I struggle to find the strength and courage to continue. Our concern is always the safety and well-being of our two children.

Many blessings your way,
Gloria Vicente



Photo Courtesy of Gloria Vicente

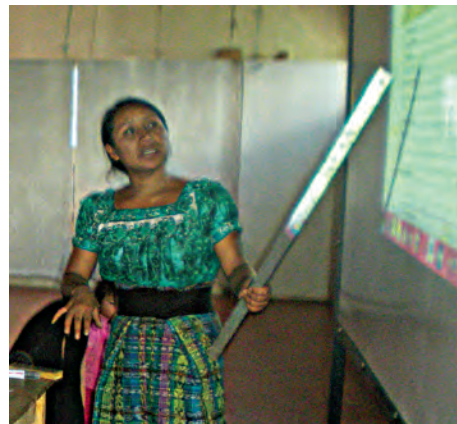


Photo Courtesy of Gloria Vicente

2012 Regional Spiritual Retreat, March 14-17

Praying With The Saints

Expand your spiritual repertoire
with examples from ancient trailblazers

Heartland Spiritual Center, Great Bend

\$135 www.kansasdiscalples.org/events

Facilitators: Kathy Bryant, Danny Ginn,
Don Janssen, and Ken Marston

News from the Pews



Photo courtesy of Fredonia CC

First Christian Church of Fredonia honored Elizabeth Shire with a reception August 21, celebrating the beginning of her 47th year as organist.

Shire's mother began teaching her to play the piano at age eight. At age 38 she learned to play the organ, then became the organist at First Christian Church. She has missed very few Sundays.

Shire says the most dangerous part of playing the organ comes from having an over-zealous custodian who thinks the bench must be polished. She's almost slid off the end several times!



Photo courtesy of Goodland CC

Goodland First Christian Church celebrated Heritage Sunday in July. Many wore clothing similar to what their ancestors wore, brought antique household items, and prepared potluck dishes made from ancestors' recipes. Church member Kenny Griffith drove his restored antique tractor to church!

26th Annual Faith CC Outdoor Concert

In 26 years it hasn't rained on the annual Outdoor Concert sponsored by Wichita's Faith Christian Church in Wichita on September 18th. The concert on the church lawn featured over two hours of live gospel music from a variety of guest performers, free food including hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill, door prizes, and fellowship.

Nine-year-old Emma Smith opened this year's concert with the National Anthem and a rousing rendition of *God Bless the U.S.A.*

Other performers included Al Nieves from Fairview Christian Church, Pastor Greg's son Jason Hamlin, and Faith CC members Susan Clevenger, Kelly D. Boylan, Sue Hieber, Roberta Walker, David Campbell, Danny Tillotson, Suzie Hurst and Tina Depperschmidt. Kelly C. Boylan (above) served as emcee.



Photo courtesy of Faith C C

Filling the Gap For Hungry Children

Hillside Christian Church in Wichita is filling the gap with sack lunches for kids! Thousands of children depend on school meals and the summer lunch program but there is a gap in early August when these programs do not operate. To meet the nutritional needs of hungry children, sack lunches were provided at five neighborhood centers for twelve weekdays before the start of school.

Partners for Wichita's Samaritan Community initiated and coordinated this effort, in cooperation with the Kansas Food Bank and neighborhood centers. Through churches, organizations and individuals, donations were received to purchase sack lunches, volunteers arranged to staff each site and to receive donations of fresh produce, snack bars, and other items for the children to take home.

This was a church-wide project for Hillside, collecting money to purchase meals and signing up volunteers to help. Vacation Bible School adopted "Filling the Gap" as their mission. Each day children brought food items: fruit cups, bars and snacks. Discovery Place, a preschool located at the church, was enthusiastic about being involved and donated money and food.

Because of these efforts, "some of the least of these" were provided a meal when other resources were not available.



Photo courtesy of Hillside CC

Women's Tea

The Women's Tea on September 11th at Garden City First Christian Church had a Retro Theme. Table décor included jump ropes, jacks, Slinky toys, and paper dolls, with flowers in soda bottles. Those attending played Bible trivia in the style of the television show *Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?*, then took home a retro toy as a favor from the party.



Photo courtesy of Parsons CC

First Christian Church in Parsons lost their building to a fire in 1977. They rebuilt, dedicating their new building in 1981. In October the congregation celebrated 30 years in their new church home with special music in worship and a potluck dinner. The observance also included the 25th year of Sunbeams Preschool. Adding to the celebration, the congregation added two new member families and observed World-wide Communion Sunday.



Photo courtesy of Haysville CC

First Christian Church in Haysville said farewell to minister Jay Lewis and his wife Dartha on July 30. Board chairperson Mark Eastman (left) presented a plaque on behalf of the congregation.

Veteran's Day

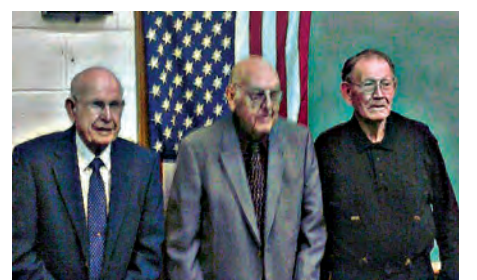


Photo courtesy of New Hope CC

Pictured above are Neal Calvin, Jay Johnson and Paul Naden, members of New Hope Christian Church in Wichita. All three gentlemen served in the military in World War II. As Veteran's Day approaches we recognize the service of these and so many more like them.

Thank you.

What's the news from your congregation?

For the February issue of the Kansas Messenger, send articles and photos before **December 15th to Messenger@KansasDisciples.org**

Family Bible School “Shake It Up”



Photo Courtesy of Shelton Memorial CC

Shelton Memorial Christian Church in Ulysses hosted its 2nd annual Family Bible School (FBS), a modified Vacation Bible School. In the “Shake it Up” café families learned about God’s special ingredients: believe fully, give freely, remember often, celebrate God. Each night started with family style dinner and fellowship then moved into science, crafts, and recreation.

“I loved it because it was an opportunity for my family of five to take some time to enjoy being a family,” said parent Marcia Raines. “A sit-down dinner and a family night is a challenge with our busy schedules; FBS gave us an opportunity to come together and remember how blessed we are to be a family.”

Leavenworth Bible School



Photo Courtesy of Leavenworth FCC

Vacation Bible School is fun for children of all ages at the Leavenworth First Christian Church.

Participants enjoyed a snack supper, Bible lessons, crafts, games, songs and a few extras during the week. The night that the face painter was on hand, Dick Hall thought some “temporary hair” might be in order. About a hundred adults and children took part.

Belmont Youth visit Woodhaven



Photo Courtesy of Belmont CC

It was intended to be more of a work trip, but after a few hours of painting, extreme heat drove them inside. Belmont Blvd. youth from Salina spent their mornings painting and their afternoons developing relationships with residents of the group home at Woodhaven in Columbia, Missouri. They went bowling together, played board games, shared meals, and learned about one another’s lives. Their many smiles are testimony to the friendships created.

The Long Line of Generous Givers

By Jim McCollough-Minister of Stewardship Education

Have you realized how much of the beauty you enjoy is the gift of a long line of people before you? That thought often came to me in the beautiful sanctuary of Topeka First Christian Church, especially during communion. This beautiful sacred space is here because of a long line of generous givers.

I think those same thoughts at camp. This beautiful, sacred space we call Disciples Center at Tawakoni is here because of many generous donors.

Are you in that line with the Christian Church in Kansas? The Annual Fund is a “back up” to our general fund of the regional church. When you give to the Annual Fund, 100% of your gift to the region underwrites our ministry. In our 2011 budget we estimated \$18,000 in Annual Fund gifts; so far Annual Fund gifts are over \$15,000.

At the Disciple Men’s and the Disciple Women’s Retreats this year, above my display table I hung a line with the names of people who have joined the long line of contributors to the Annual Fund. The line will keep growing until Regional Assembly in Hutchinson next year, October 19-20, 2012. If you aren’t already “on-line” with the Annual Fund, join it today.

Vern Failor Honored at Gala

At the 2011 Gala for Disciples Center at Tawakoni, the regional church paused to recognize Vern Failor (right) for his years of service as Camp Host. This position is being phased out as the resident caretaker’s position is revised. The Camp Committee is seeking a resident caretaker who will have the additional skills to manage the camp systems, facilities and equipment. Vern was not able to attend the Gala because of his father’s illness, and on his behalf his wife Pam (below) accepted the honors from Camp Committee chairperson Kelly Gindlesberger.



The annual event netted more than \$22,000 for development of the campsite. On behalf of the adults, children, and youth who will use the camp and benefit from ongoing improvements in years to come, the regional church offers its thanks to all who make the Gala possible: the planning team, youth servers, chef Martin Peck and his kitchen crew, those who create and/or donate items for the auctions, and most of all, those who attend and give so generously to purchase the trips and experiences, handcrafted art, memorabilia, and more. *Thank you!*



Men’s Retreat

By Ken Marston

The September Kansas Men’s retreat drew the largest crowd for a number of years, to explore the theme “the joy of being different yet united in Christ” with Facilitator Sotello Long, Regional Minister in South Carolina. Participants ranged from age 16 to age 90+, the widest span in years. Through video, music, conversations, devotionals and presentations from Rev. Long, the men celebrated the gifts that different ages, languages, ethnicities, and yes, even genders, bring to the life of faith. Men shared their own stories and left feeling enriched and equipped to engage in their own ministries of God’s reconciling work in the world.

Camp and Youth Ministries

Be Still... Know God



KDYC 2011: "Intersection" November 11 - 13

The KDYC Planning Team is working hard to make the fall youth convention new and fresh. The theme "Intersection" helps young people look at how the Good News of Jesus Christ intersects with everyday life.

Keynote speaker Aaron Marez, right, will again bring challenging, energizing messages, focused on being "more Christ-like in order to reach into the world with our actions and attitudes."

Rap artist Brian Brillhart will be featured at the Friday evening after-session. Game stations, home-baked cookies and popcorn will also be available.

In addition to three convention sessions, Saturday's program includes elective workshops and serving in the food pick-up for the local food bank.

Youth leader Nick Sisson of Wichita Riverside Christian Church will lead team challenges at Saturday evening fellowship and there will also be inflatables again! Thanks to a grant from the Kansas Bible Chair, registration is \$55 for the three-day event. Registration information is available at www.kansasdisciples.org. At camp, youth received KDYC wrist-bands to remind



KCYF Spring Retreat March 2-4, 2012 Disciples Center at Tawakoni

The Retreat, directed by KCYF Cabinet, features Christal Williams, right, Associate Regional Minister in Illinois-Wisconsin. Christal is a popular presenter with our youth. She will speak on *The Bible in Our DOC Tradition*.

For more information and the registration form please visit <http://kansasdisciples.org/images/2012KCYFSpringRetreat.pdf>



2011 Thanksgiving Offering

EMAIL FROM YOUR COLLEGE DAUGHTER OR SON

Dear Mom,

Just a note to let you know I am OK. My studies are challenging as expected.

Yesterday, a professor and I had a conversation about my vocational and life goals. No final decisions yet. I am still exploring how I may make my mark in the world. Good to have this time to learn and to reflect. Thanks for your guidance.

Love, _____

Would you like to get an email like this from your child? You probably would if you encouraged him or her to attend one of our Disciples-related colleges or universities supported by your Special Day Thanksgiving Offering through the Disciples Mission Fund.

Explore your 14 schools at <http://www.tcucc.org/> and email us at tcuccdoc@gmail.com.



Thoughts From a Seminary Student

Doing the work of ministry requires a perspective that is unlike most any other. I understand this as one who comes to vocational ministry later in life than some. My former life in the secular world prepared me for many aspects of ministerial work, but there is enhanced perspective that emerges from a deep dive into the theological, historical, and scriptural aspects of that which we trust as sacred.... My seminary experience has helped me shape better questions and pointed me toward new ways of understanding. Seminary education has served to make me a far more effective pastoral minister.... *To read the rest of Kelly's reflection, go to www.disciplesmissionfund.org.*

Kelly Gindlesberger,
M.Div. Student at Phillips Theological Seminary
Pastor - First Christian Church, Kinsley, Kansas

Chi Rho Retreat February 17-19, 2012

It's a F.L.O.O.D!

Fully Living Out
Overwhelming Discipleship!
2 Corinthians 5:20

Chi Rho Retreat
February 17 - 19
Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Josh Bell, speaker

Josh Bell & Travis McKee, directors *Photo courtesy of Josh Bell*



Josh's goal is to equip junior high participants to be ambassadors for Christ, letting actions speak above words. He uses music and role-play to help students learn.

Josh came to Kansas in 2011 as pastor of Kingman Christian Church, after 8 years in Virginia where he directed youth ministries on regional staff and pastored a local congregation. Josh is a popular youth speaker in Oklahoma, Virginia, Georgia, and North Carolina. He was also a band, chorus, and theater teacher and a professional opera singer. He and his wife Carman have two young children, Madeline and Quinton.

Regional Mission & Ministry



Photo courtesy of Ruth Winkler

Woman to Woman Worldwide 2011

From Kansas To Congo—the trip of a lifetime

By Ruth Winkler and Christy Dew

Twelve women from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) returned September 12 from a visit to the women of Congo. Christy Dew, Associate Minister of First Christian Church in Manhattan was among the travelers, as was former Kansan Ruth Winkler. Even though their flight was delayed nine hours, Congo women (above) waited in the heat without food and water to greet the group as they arrived in Kinshasa, capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they spent four days learning about the lives of women in a different culture.

Next the group visited Mbandaka where they met with Rev. Eliki Bonanga, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the counterpart to our own Sharon Watkins. The women also traveled by boat up the Congo River to Bolenge to visit the first Disciples church in the Congo and a farm project in Ikengo.

After these visits the women crossed the Congo River to Brazzaville, capital city of the Republic of the Congo, where new Disciples congregations are beginning to flourish. Until 1995, no churches were allowed to exist in Brazzaville. Churches are

now welcomed because they are helping the government meet the needs of the people.

One of the Congo Disciples women who came to meet the group traveled 3 days by boat and two women walked 2 weeks, about 200 miles, to meet our women. When asked why she walked so far, so long, one woman replied: "How would you not have known that I loved you and was your sister in Christ if I did not show up to greet you and to talk with you?" After the visit she and her companion began their two-week walk home again.

One of the most profound learning experiences the US Disciples women encountered was the depth of spirit and generosity from our Disciples brothers and sisters in Congo. The women on this trip learned that it is so important to show up, to be present with others, and to demonstrate faith in all things so that others may see the body of Christ made real in the world.

Christy Dew completes her ministry at Manhattan First Christian Church on November 20 and will become senior pastor of a UCC church in St. Louis Park, near Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ruth Winkler will share her experience at Spirit Fests in April, and she is available to bring her presentation to churches and groups. Contact her at 417-559-3785 or ruthwinkler@yahoo.com.

IT WAS AN AMAZING RETREAT

By Barb Runge

Amy Gopp was inspirational, challenging, entertaining and beyond anyone's expectations! We surprised her with a large check from Kansas women for the Women's Empowerment Fund and she felt our retreat was a gift in her own life.

Reports from retreat:

PROCESSING FEES FOR SCHOOL KITS -- \$1252.50
MID WEEK

Attending – 68

Offering – \$876.50

Blessing Boxes – \$37.19

Book Sales – \$983.20

School Kits – 380

Women's Empowerment Fund -- \$367.00

WEEKEND

Attending – 76

Offering – \$808.75

Blessing Boxes \$125.29

Book Sales – \$1214.51

Women to Women – \$42.50

School Kits – 174

Women's Empowerment Fund – \$600



Keynote Speaker Amy Gopp,
Executive Director of
Week of Compassion

In addition to the designated offerings and a special gift of \$25, one-half of the offering of \$1685.25 will be sent to the Women's Empowerment Fund. With the original check of \$1540.50, our total gift will be \$3375.12!

Mark your calendars now for the 2012 retreat when Rev. Sharyn Dowd, a truly wonderful New Testament scholar, will share her insights and knowledge -- Oct. 3-5 for Midweek and Oct. 5-7 for Weekend. The Kansas Bible Chair has already generously granted Disciples Women the funds to pay our speaker's expenses so we can keep the registration fees as low as possible.

Regional News

In Memoriam

Elsie Jane Wheeler, 94, died September 11 at Kansas Christian Home. She was a Kansas native and a graduate of Phillips University, Enid, OK, where she met her husband the Reverend J. Allen Wheeler. Together they served many churches in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Marshall Volbrecht, 85, father of Haysville FCC interim minister Kathy Bryant, died Sep. 13 in Wellington.

Retired minister Carol Albright died September 19th in Kansas City. Together she and her husband Don Albright who died last October had served churches in Kansas City for many years. Most recently they were interim ministers at First Christian Church in Leavenworth.

David Carter, 83, died September 20 at his home in Wellington. A Timothy of the Wellington congregation, he served local congregations in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arizona, and for several years was on the staff of the Colorado regional church. His wife Carol resides at the Riverview Care Home in Oxford.

Retired pastor Leo Brown died in the May 22 tornado in Joplin, MO. He had served the Kansas churches in Canton and Mankato in the 1950s. The remainder of his ministry was mostly carried out in Missouri congregations.

Please Remember in Your Will: Christian Church in Kansas Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Josh Cole, Director of Family Ministry at Hillside CC in Wichita, and his wife Ashley are the proud parents of a daughter, Rebecca Dawn, born September 27.

Robin Colerick, minister of Pratt First Christian Church, has adopted a second daughter, Hailee Lynne Colerick.



Ordination Anniversaries 30 years and more

Bob Minshall – November, 1950
 Bill Furnas – December 31, 1950
 Victor Schwarz – December 19, 1952
 Maxine Burch – January 1955
 Laura Dargitz – December 29, 1957
 Jim Lorensen – November 29, 1961
 Jim Beaumont – January 28, 1962
 Terry Hatfield – January 1971
 Bill McConnell – November 16, 1980

Happy Birthday!

to the saints who are 80, 90, 95, 100 and beyond

Norma Shaw, Kingman	103
Dora Slavin, Hiawatha	101
Marie Wood, Emporia	90
Helen Beck, Columbus	90
Phyllis Taylor, Topeka	90
John Henry, Clearwater	90
Mary Louise Euler, Leavenworth	90
Helen Coder, Atchison	90
Helen Frazier, Wichita Riverside	90
Dorothy Boyce, Emporia	80
Betty Rethmann, Goodland	80
Lew Pearce, Hutchinson Park Place	80



Happy Anniversary! to the saints who celebrate 50, 60, 65 and more years together

Bill & Oleta Pixler, Smith Center	70
George & Maxine Wescott, Fredonia	67
Don & Elsie Byers, Chanute	66
Charles & Delores Palmer, Fredonia	66
Art & Mary Adam, Salina Belmont Blvd. CC	65
Carl & Dorothy Thornton, Fredonia	65
Les & Margaret Walters, Coffeyville	65
Rex & Wanda Kirkland, Ottawa	60
Don & Donna Johnson, Holton	60
Howard & Joyce Silvery, Kingman	50
Virginia & Wade Stanfield, Eureka	50
Linda & Wally Krueger, Cheney	50
Carson & Elaine Abramson, Hiawatha	50



The Kansas Messenger is available online, in color!
www.kansasdisciples.org/messenger.html

If you read *the Kansas Messenger* on our website and prefer not to receive a mailed copy, please email us: scd@kansasdisciples.org

Thank you for helping us be more
 financially and environmentally responsible!

In Transition

Stan Hickman has resigned as pastor of First Christian Church in Ottawa, completing his ministry in October.

Jay Lewis resigned as pastor of Haysville First Christian Church, completing his ministry July 31. The congregation has called Kathy Bryant as Intentional Interim Minister, to begin November 1.

Lynn Scott has been called as the settled pastor of First Christian Church in McPherson. He has served as the interim minister for one year.

Dan Price began October 1 as pastor of Central Christian Church in Caldwell.