



KANSAS MESSENGER

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

www.kansasdisciples.org



VOL. 115, NO. 3 August 2011

More Than Money A Regional Leadership Training Event Aug. 26-27

Many churches forgo stewardship education. Often this decision is made by long-term members who don't feel that they need the annual reminder. A consequence is that many people in our pews have never been exposed to giving as a spiritual discipline, a way to grow closer to God. Stewardship is a way of life, a point of view that undergirds all of life's choices.

Bruce Barkhauer, Disciples' Minister of Faith and Giving, will challenge us to view all of life through the lens of Christian stewardship. Workshops offer opportunities to explore various topics in depth; there is something for almost every church leader.

Register soon for your choice of workshops; the registration deadline is August 16. Workshop room assignments will be made on the basis of registrations. Forms have been mailed to all churches and are available at www.kansasdisciples.org.

Clergy Care Mentor Retreat

Disciples Center at Tawakoni
August 6

9:30 am -3:00 pm

Cost: \$5.00

The retreat will explore the implications of the "Theological Foundations and Policy and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry" and the role of mentors in the equipping of ministers.

More information is available at www.kansasdisciples.org

More Than Money Workshop Options

1) **Stewardship of Accumulated Resources**—Kirby Gould, Christian Church Foundation. Kirby shares how your estate can benefit you, your heirs, and your favorite ministries.

2) **Revisioning the Pastoral Relations Committee**— Steve Bridwell, Intentional Interim Minister, discussion panel. Learn how the PRC can function more effectively in congregations.

3) **Parish Nursing**— Becky Stauffer, Topeka FCC Parish Nurse. Learn about the possibilities for a health ministry in your congregation.

4) **Lay Pastoral Care**— Luis Mendez, Minister at Fairview CC; Doug Gilstrap, Minister of Mission at Woodridge CC. Learn how to involve members of the congregation in offering compassionate care to people in need. Together they lead a support group for people in grief; Fairview CC is beginning a Stephen Ministry.

5) **Stewardship as a Spiritual Discipline**— Members of the CCK Spirituality Priority Team will lead participants in exploring the spiritual aspects of stewardship.

6) **Global Mission**— Patrick Nixon, CCK Mission Trip Coordinator and Minister at Cheney TUCC. Pat will answer questions about global ministries and planning mission trips for your church. Pat has led a number of foreign and domestic mission trips.

7) **Raising Up Leaders: the Call to Ministry**— Geoff Brewster, Phillips Theological Seminary. Learn what the responsibility of the local congregation is in identifying and recruiting the next generation of ministers for the church.

8) **The Stewardship of Leadership: Doing it Right**— Bob Alderson, CCK attorney, elder Topeka FCC. Learn about the church board's oversight responsibility: legal issues, church governance, practices to protect staff and volunteers, employee matters, risk management, liabilities, reversionary clauses, and more.

9) **Intentional Interim Ministry**— Steve Bridwell, Intentional Interim Minister. Learn about the five tasks of the interim period, how IIM is different than keeping the pulpit warm, and how it can benefit your congregation in the in-between time.

10) **The Family Budget**—Keynoter Bruce Barkhauer brings a workshop designed to help families learn Biblical principles for sound money management.

11) **Youth Sponsors Training**— Michael Davison, OK regional staff. These three workshops take the place of Youth Sponsor Training. Those who desire this training will indicate #11 as their first, second and third choice of workshops.

Listening Lingerin Leading Young Adult Conference

Disciples Center at Tawakoni
October 14-15

Children welcome;
Childcare provided

Resource Leader:
Christian Piatt
Author of *Banned Questions about the Bible*, *Banned Questions about Jesus* and others



Registration available soon at www.kansasdisciples.org

For more information on this event turn to page 7

Register Now! 2011 Gala & Auction Disciples Center at Tawakoni Saturday, Sept. 17

Appetizer Fellowship and
Silent Auction 11 AM
Leadership Lodge

Gourmet Dinner
12:30 PM Dining Hall

A live auction featuring
dinners, trips, crafts,
weekend getaways,
original artwork,
sports memorabilia,
hand made woodwork,
theme baskets, jewelry,
spa services,
unique ornaments,
Christmas items, quilts,
home decorations and more.

Proceeds support capital
improvements to the
campground as well as camp
scholarships for youth.

Tickets are \$30 per person.

To donate goods or services
for the auctions,
contact Ruth Alderson at
ruthalderson1951@gmail.com

Plan to attend this wonderful
event and invite your friends
to come support the Kansas
Outdoor Ministries program!

Contribution Envelopes Are Enclosed

In our last issue we thanked you for your ongoing support of the annual fund, Disciples Center at Tawakoni, and the Kansas Messenger. In this issue we have included contribution envelopes. Your contributions help inspire and inform you about the good news of Christian ministries in the Kansas regional church and beyond. Thank you in advance for giving generously to make this publication possible!

Coming Events:

| | | |
|--|--------------|--------|
| Clergy Boundary Training, Topeka | Aug 4 | |
| Mentor Retreat, Disciples Center Tawakoni | Aug 6 | Page 1 |
| TEAM2 Regional Event, Wichita | Aug 26-27 | Page 1 |
| Journey in Prayer, Goodland | Sep 10 | |
| Gala and Auction, Disciples Center Tawakoni | Sept 17 | Page 6 |
| Men's Retreat, Disciples Center Tawakoni | Sept 23-24 | Page 7 |
| Women's Retreats, Disciples Center Tawakoni | Oct 5-7, 7-9 | Page 7 |
| Young Adult Event, Disciples Center Tawakoni | Oct 14-15 | Page 1 |

Save the date:

Kansas Disciples Youth Convention, Hutchinson Nov 11-13 Page 6

Peace Offerings

Paxton Jones, Regional Minister

By the time this *Kansas Messenger* reaches you, I will be in the third month of a three month sabbatical, June - August, from my responsibilities as your regional minister. It is being taken at the urging of the region's Personnel Committee and with the gracious blessing of our Regional Board, who recognized that "This Region—you—deserve a Regional Minister who is refreshed and on top of his 'game' for the future ministry that we share."



have a couple of other pet projects I'm working on too.

Will I get all of this accomplished in three months? In a word, no. But it will be a break from the routine, an opportunity to set a different [need I add healthier?] pace and lifestyle for a while, and it is truly needed.

Meanwhile, I leave you in the good hands of Steve Martin, Renee Bridwell, Ken Marston, Barb Runge, Susan White and the rest of our outstanding staff. I confess that I am biased in their favor, but I cannot adequately tell you how much they impress me on a daily basis with their care-giving and ministry on your behalf—and mine! They make us an exceptional regional church, and me a better regional minister, by their wisdom, compassion and attention to detail (for which I sincerely thank them). Please do not hesitate to call them if you have a need!

Grace and peace, Pax

Reconciliation Offering Let Your Light So Shine

Bob Colerick, FCC Emporia



We live in a contentious society; it's easy to find fault. "No one seems to do what I say should be done," we think. "They are idiots," we complain. This is destructive; even less helpful is letting these negative thoughts fuel our inactivity. "What good would it do?" or "What can I do?" we rationalize. Regardless of our feelings, to respond with a negative attitude and critical inactivity is not helpful.

I appreciate this old Chinese proverb: "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness." This better response to bickering and polarity, to do good rather than complain, is an action of which Jesus would approve.

This is especially true for prejudice, injustice, inequality and discrimination—exactly what we Disciples of Christ address through our Reconciliation emphasis and our Reconciliation Offering. We can smugly criticize, find fault, point out failures—or we can light a candle.

Edmund Burke once declared that "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." To me, we often do worse than "do nothing." We fail to support and encourage and give good faith efforts a try.

With our Reconciliation Offering, we light candles in the darkness. *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* (Mt 5:16)

Reconciliation Offering Sept. 25 & Oct. 2

One-half of the Reconciliation Offering is used in the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church, and one-half remains in our regional church. The Kansas half of the 2011 offering will support seven projects, efforts in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. In a world where there is too much prejudice, fear, hatred, and too little forgiveness, your offering provides grants for these worthy projects:

Food Pantry, FCC Lawrence

Birthday Backpack Program, Pine Valley Christian Church Wichita

Camp Friendship, Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Food Pantry, FCC Atchison

Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen

Home Sweet Home Homeless Ministry, FCC Independence

Neighborhood Breakfast Program, Fairview Christian Church Wichita

More information on these projects is available on our website at www.kansasdisciples.org, under Programs and Resources Ministry.

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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:

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The Church Beyond Our Borders

~~ from our Global Mission Partner ~~

Warm greetings from rainy Santa Cruz K'iche'! I hope that this finds you and all who surround you well and strong. Here in Guatemala we continue raising our wonderful children Nicolas and Ixbalanke, and balancing our schedules with our activities at Guatemala Cultural Action, ACG.

I continue to train and advise Justina Algua, Project Manager of the development office here at ACG. We meet weekly, and there are lots of daily duties in addition to organizational development. With Justina's half day schedule, we are never caught up!

This area of work involves projects in ACG's four core program areas: Women's Self Sufficiency Program, Education and Cultural Promotion, Media and Human Rights Program, and Sustainable Rural Development. It also involves the organizational and administrative tools to make work more efficient and proactive, and creating a better, more productive work environment for staff.

We are encouraging women to be active agents of change vis-à-vis the Women's Self Sustainability Program. Over the last three years or so, there has been a decline in women's leadership roles at ACG—something that I personally struggle with but more importantly, the women staff here face daily at work and in all spheres of their lives. The real challenge for me is seeing my colleagues struggle to find a voice and dignity at work, where I face the same challenge in working with my male counterparts.

Our work involves projects to empower women. We evaluate and update current programs and create new ones. The reduced priority on women's programs has to do with



both the lack of active women in the Women's Self Sufficiency Program and the exclusion of them by the male constituency. Project Manager Justina and I coordinated a short gathering of ACG women members, scholarship students, board members and other women who have participated with ACG or supported the organization over the years. Our purpose is to create a working group who will develop projects for the women's program, generate ideas, proposals and ultimately create and promote women leaders. Our first gathering on June 14 (pictured above) had a turnout of 12 women!

With these efforts, the challenge will be for the current male leadership not to look down on this effort to work with women directly to promote their voice, their leadership and their rights. Women are agents of social change and indigenous women hold great potential for their families, communities, and themselves. The first gathering was fruitful because women had a space where they could strengthen and encourage each other and see the importance of their contributions.

I will share more details in my next article so look for it! May this message give you hope in times of critical need and presence in Guatemala.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Vicente*

Nurturing Your Spirit

by Ken Marston



*"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
(Mt 6:14-15)*

One way we deal with hurt is the playground approach: "you hurt me, I hurt you back." This exchange appeals to our sense of right and wrong, and equal treatment. This "eye for an eye" has two inherent problems. First, when we inflict retribution on those who hurt us, they often feel that the pain we inflicted was greater than the transgression and seek to even the score. Beginning an escalating spiral of acts of hurt.

Second, vengeance never helps us deal with the anger and bitterness that take root when we experience undeserved hurt. Until we expunge these feelings from our souls, they imprison us in the past and we miss out on the abundant living God intends for us. Vengeance may give an illusion of justice, but ultimately it keeps us from being able to love ourselves and from loving and receiving love from God.

Jesus lived and taught a different way of dealing with hurt. Forgiveness is not about letting people "off the hook" for the hurt they inflict upon you or others. It does not excuse one's behavior because of an extenuating circumstance, nor is it a one-time act. Rather forgiveness is a process that begins with recognition of the hurt and the feelings that accompany it; if possible, holding the perpetrator accountable in some way, and releasing the anger. Loving the person in spite of the pain, instead of retaliating vengefully, sets us free from the power of the perpetrator to bind us. Sometimes we have to say "I forgive you" when we feel "I hate your guts!"

Forgiveness takes work. Without it, we have no chance of living out Christ's command to love others as God in Christ loves us.

Disciples in Mission in Nicaragua

by Patrick Nixon

Patrick Nixon is our CCK Regional Mission Trip Coordinator, and the pastor of Trinity United Christian Church in Cheney.

Global Missions is the combined mission effort of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Through Global Ministries we work with mission partners in 70 countries worldwide.

While in Nicaragua in March I met with leaders from Mision Cristiana, a Global Mission (GM) partner in Nicaragua, and with Laura Jean Torgerson, a GM missionary. I also interviewed a group of Idaho Disciples who were on a mission trip with Mision Cristiana. Global Missions is doing great things in the world.

Mision Cristiana is a Pentecostal denomination in Nicaragua. They have many missions, including a tremendous prison ministry. In addition to spiritual development they are working on improving the lives of the poor. Global Missions works through in-country partners like Mision Cristiana.



Idaho Disciples photo by Pat Nixon

The Disciples from Idaho were leaving for home after working on a dairy project so remote that they rode horses 8 hours to the farm from the end of the bus line. The dairy project improves the diet of the people in the village by providing protein. Sale of some milk provides needed income. In the area entire families attempt to live on less than a dollar a day, and any added income helps. Through our mission partners Global Missions touches lives around the world.

We are considering a GM trip in the summer of 2012, probably to Latin America. Interested? Contact Pat Nixon at 316-540-6161 or patrick@cheney.kscoxmail.com PS: I don't anticipate riding horses into any potential mission site.

Giving With Your IRA To Your Church or Favorite Charity

by Kirby Gould

Have you ever wished you could stretch your charitable dollars farther or find a way to do more for the causes you love? For individuals who are 70½ and have a traditional IRA, Congress has opened a window of opportunity in 2011 to allow this wish to come true.

Building on the success of the IRA charitable rollover legislation introduced in 2006, the law allows persons who are at least 70½ to request their IRA administrator make distributions directly from the IRA to a qualified 501(c) (3) charitable organization.

This distribution can be counted as part of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). It will not be counted as a taxable distribution and can be up to \$100,000 in 2011. Distributions cannot be counted as a charitable contribution deduction, but it does reduce the value of the IRA so that future RMDs are less; therefore, future income taxes are reduced.

In some states, making charitable gifts through an IRA will save state taxes, since this income will not be included in the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). The combined impact of saving state, local and federal taxes is most dramatic for non-itemizers, who are now able to give tax-free dollars to charity – stretching their dollars by 25, 30, or even 35 percent! This opportunity can allow people to give more to charity at the same or reduced "out-of-pocket cost" to them.

Persons might consider fulfilling their normal support of the church or

charity's operating budget with a gift from an IRA, or use this opportunity to stretch a gift to support a special campaign or project.

For persons over 70½, or who will be by December 31, 2011, contact the IRA administrator or church or charity for more information. What a great opportunity to help charitable causes in the months ahead!

For more information, contact Kirby Gould at the Christian Church Foundation at 816-756-5060, kgould@ccf.disciples.org.

Shared Mission Trip Opportunity

by Patrick Nixon

The United Church of Christ (UCC) in Kansas and Oklahoma has an active partnership with the Evangelical Church in Germany. In recent years youth from the Conference have gone to Germany, or youth from Germany have come to Kansas to be hosted by American youth. It has been a tremendous cross cultural experience.

A joint mission trip with partners from the German church and from Kansas Disciples and UCC Conference is being considered for the summer of 2013. Participants will meet and work side by side in an undetermined third country. This could be a life-changing experience.

Interested? Contact Pat Nixon at 316-540-6161 or patrick@cheney.kscoxmail.com

News from the Pews



Bag Lady?

Bonnie Prideaux of FCC Girard is covered in 56 bags that she has sewn. At the fall Disciples Women Retreats, the bags will be filled with school supplies for Church World Service. Prideaux made a similar number of bags for the congregation's mission trip to Bocha Chica, Dominican Republic, in 2006.

Youth Defy 3-Digit Temps to Help Joplin

"We were all wet, very tired, and sunburned, but all in all a very good success." That's how Wichita's Riverside Christian Church Children's Activity Director Jill Clary summed up a car wash that netted over \$630 for the Joplin tornado relief effort. Clary said she wanted to teach the kids that life is not "just about them," but about our neighbors, too. Nearby adults were impressed by the energy of the kids in the 103 degree heat.

When Clary suggested the car wash, the youth ran with it. Twelve teens washed about 50 cars in four hours on Saturday, June 18. During planning, youth decided a snack bar would be a great idea. The RCC men volunteered hot dogs, brats, s'mores and beverages, "and were more than generous," according to Clary. Four men also helped shuffle cars.

Clary gave special recognition to recent high school graduate Tanner Clary who "helped me a great deal." Other youth involved were Ezekiel, Manhattan, and Staten Clary, Madison Davis, Adam, Ethan, and Zach Geno, Chase Norton, Katie Owen, David Prine, and Shawna Fielder.



What's the news from your congregation?
For the November issue of the Kansas Messenger, send articles and photos before **October 1** to Messenger@kansasdiscalples.org

Dighton Celebrates 125 Years



Mac and Kala Barnett, Howard Bever, and Steve Campbell receive a certificate of recognition on the 125th Anniversary of First CC Dighton. The certificate was presented at a reception after worship by Associate Regional Minister Ken Marston.



Farewell to Allens

Central Christian Church of Caldwell wished Pastor Steve Allen & wife Rita farewell on Sunday, May 22 as they prepared to move to Kentucky. The fellowship dinner ended with the presentation of an afghan which pictures the church building and inserts of the newly dedicated stained glass windows.

Thank you Hiawatha!

This spring Kansas congregations received information about *\$20 is Plenty*, a spiritual discipline for Lent, to sacrificially raise money for a mission cause. Over ten Sundays and special services, eighteen members of Hiawatha First Christian Church brought their *\$20 is Plenty* gifts and raised \$2583 for the ministries of the Christian Church in Kansas.

Pastor Bill Worcester wrote, "Obviously not every member of the church participated and not every participant gave a full portion, but the lesson was on giving sacrificially—above and beyond usual giving." The Stewardship Committee, headed by Elaine Abramson who also teaches Sunday school for the church's mentally disabled adults, led the church in this discipline.

Hillside Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser



Hillside CC youth wash a regional staff car; they were raising funds for their mission trip to Costa Rica.

Tornado Relief Begins



The EF-5 tornado that destroyed much of Joplin in late May ignited the hearts of many for hands-on mission work. This group of Hammerheads from Woodridge Christian Church in Wichita were experienced storm responders; they went to Joplin on the first weekend after the storm to help clear debris. With recovery work beginning, there is a greater need for volunteer groups of all kinds. Week of Compassion and Disciples Volunteering are setting up a Mission Station at South Joplin Christian Church which will house volunteer groups for years to come.

Several Disciples congregations in southeast Kansas have helped house and feed volunteers. Woodridge volunteers slept at Pittsburg FCC, showered at the Pittsburg Y, and had a meal in Columbus on their trip.

At the time of this writing, Disciples volunteer groups are being coordinated through the Ozark Lakes Area office at olaccma@sbcglobal.net or (417) 865-0850. There will be a need for volunteers for a number of years; congregations are urged to join with one another and take part in this mission need.



At the region's annual Relax, Refresh, Renew retreat for clergy, one pastor explored the theme in his own way. Kris Tenny-Brittian was the resource leader for the post-Easter 2011 retreat which takes place at our beautiful campground.

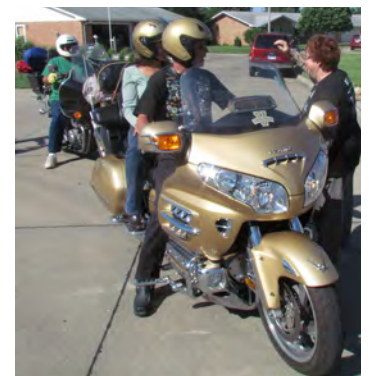


Dennis Voth, center, was installed as minister of Central Christian Church in Arkansas City on May 15. Regional Minister Paxton Jones brought the message and Associate RM Renee Bridwell led the Covenant of Installation.

The congregation invited their community to the service and celebrated with a reception afterward. Dennis and his wife Beverly moved from Bartlesville, OK, where he was pastor of First Christian Church.

Silver and Chrome Run

Kansas Christian Home was the gathering site for almost 70 motorcycles and their riders on June 18 for the first Silver and Chrome Run. Clearwater pastor Gene Eason, member Brandon Dills, and Conway Springs pastor Bill Nestelroad were among the riders enjoying the day. Participants were treated to a pancake breakfast before the run and a concert at the end of the day. KCH residents enjoyed the variety of motorcycles and riders, and many were photographed on a display model.



Riders line up for a "Blessing of the Bikes" from Chaplain Denny Bell, before taking off on the first Silver and Chrome Run at Kansas Christian Home.



Organist Celebrates 45 Years of Service

Dr. Ruth Krusemark was given a plaque, roses, card, and money tree by Pastor Lee Hendon on behalf of FCC Atchison in recognition of her 45 years of service as church organist.

KCH Addition



CEO Jim Nachtigal cut the ribbon on the Garden Path addition to Kansas Christian Home on Thursday, May 19. Standing with him are (from left) Newton Mayor Ken Hall, Nachtigal, chaplain Denny Bell. An estimated 100 people attended the Open House, including architect George Krievins and many KCH residents, family members, staff, and friends.

The six-room addition includes its own kitchen and dining rooms. A special feature is the tiled spa room with roll-in shower and walk-in bath.

General Assembly & General Church



Some Kansas Disciples will know Andra Moran, whose parents Geoff and Ruth Ann were pastors at First Christian Church in Pittsburg. Andra was one of several Nashville musicians who led music for the General Assembly.



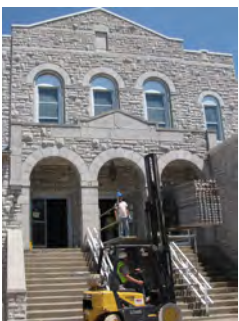
General church Moderator Larry Brown of Chickasha, Oklahoma and General Minister and President Sharon Watkins preside at the Lord's Table during opening worship of the 2012 General Assembly.



A Quonset hut, the South Joplin congregation's youth facility, will be remodeled to serve as a Mission Station for volunteers.

Joplin pastors Fay Blevins and Jill Michel addressed the General Assembly with thanks for the flood of money, supplies, prayers, and calls which have come their way. They thanked those who have already come to help, those who resisted the urge to come too soon (much laughter from the Assembly!), and those who will come to help rebuild.

To take part in the rebuilding, contact either Joplin church. The need is great, and the opportunities many; help will be needed for years to come.



Workers are busy with repairs at South Joplin Christian Church, damaged in the May 22 tornado. The church building was just north of the tornado's path of destruction. The congregation meets for worship at Joplin's First Christian Church while the repairs are being done.



Disciples preacher Fred Craddock doesn't travel far anymore. We are thankful that Nashville, Tennessee is close enough to Cherry Log, Georgia that he was able to bring us the Word on Tuesday evening of General Assembly. Craddock's sermon was interwoven with video stories of inspiring ministries among Disciples, and challenged all of us to tell our story of God's working among us.



The candle was lit at the opening of Assembly, a continual reminder of the presence of the Light of Christ in our gathering.



Clearwater Mission Trip

Hiram Farm in Ohio is a two-year-old community project to provide inspiration and meaningful work for individuals who live with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Farm is certified 100% organic. Participants at the Farm raise vegetables, pigs, and sheep, and create crafts. The proceeds from all farm products become income for the participants, building self-esteem, providing dignity and a sense of accomplishment.

Tasks for members of Clearwater FCC included weeding vegetables, painting barn siding, preparing program materials for farm participants, light carpentry, and stripping wallpaper and painting in the farmhouse which will become offices, therapy rooms and winter craft space for the program. The photograph was taken on the steps of the farmhouse. Pictured are (L to R, back) pastor Gene Eason, Bob Fleming, Jason Crist, Frank Chenoweth; (middle) Cindy Eason, Associate Regional Minister Renee Bridwell, Erin Crist; (front) Seth, Sierra, and Brandon Dills. The Easons' daughter-in-law Lisa who lives in nearby Warren was an integral part of the group, buying groceries and preparing meals for the group each day.

Watkins Re-elected General Minister and President

By Sherri Emmons

Delegates to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted to re-elect General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins for a second six-year term.

Before the vote, Watkins reflected on her six years as GMP and her plans for the next six years, pledging to hold before the church "the fundamental challenge for us as Disciples of Christ," which she said is showing the love of God to neighbors at home and around the world, and to one another in the church.

She noted our need to "engage each other openly and tenaciously" on matters left "to polite silence or hot debate." She said, "We need to talk honestly about the gospel message as it relates to race and sexual orientation in our church. We've been at a stalemate for too long on both."

Watkins noted progress the church has made in the last decade: 700 new and affiliating churches, and more than 500 "actively, intentionally transforming churches" new partnerships between General Ministries and regions, consolidation and streamlining of services, and a clarification of the role of the GMP.



"In a second term I would continue to convene tables of leaders to address the matters before us," she said. "It's the convening of tables that is the primary leadership the GMP can offer in our anti-hierarchical, radically flat Disciples way of doing things."



Holly McKissick, pastor of St. Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kansas, brought the Word on the opening night of General Assembly. In her sermon she told the story of Pavel and Vera, Holocaust survivors who survived four years in the concentration camps. The spellbinding story held Assembly-goers in absolute silence many times.

Great Bend Youth Help at General Assembly

Great Bend youth came to General Assembly to help! They came early to Nashville to harvest and weed, and to help address hunger. Six youth and their adult leaders pulled weeds and picked vegetables at Woodmont Christian Church, in the garden of Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Fresh produce from the gardens supplements the diet of homeless and low-income Nashvillians, especially those who live in 'food deserts,' those areas of the city with little or no access to supermarkets.

The nine from Great Bend deadheaded plants to spur new growth and pulled invasive weeds in the 2800 square foot organic garden. They staked and supported tomato plants and chased rabbits from inside the wire mesh enclosures. Most of all they learned about being in the Body of Christ with those who are hungry. Food ministry is a natural fit.

Church Extension seeks Assistant Treasurer

Church Extension in Indianapolis is seeking someone with strong financial accounting experience....

Duties & Responsibilities

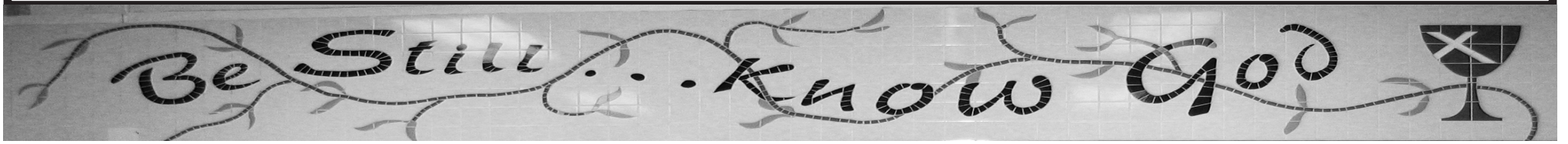
Work with Church Extension officers to provide oversight for the Financial Operations team in:

- Evaluating, implementing, and improving accounting and financial information systems
- Maintaining relationship with auditors and attending to the audit process
- Ensuring implementation of Church Extension's accounting policies
- Implementing a budgeting process
- and more ... contact a member of regional staff for the complete posting.

Participation and/or experience with a local Disciples of Christ congregation, a post-graduate business/finance degree, and public accounting experience are optimal but not required qualifications. Equal opportunity employer.

Send letter of inquiry and/or letter of application with resume by August 31 to: Mary Beight, Church Extension mbeight@churchextension.org
130 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Camp and Youth Ministries



Prayer Path Complete



Brothers Brian and Andy Nixon stand at the ninth devotional station on the newly-completed Prayer Path at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. They were the driving force behind creation of the path, with help from a number of others along the way.

Each station on the path includes a bench; markers at each station suggest a focus for prayer in that location. The Prayer Path begins near the Labyrinth, just south of the canteen and re-enters the main camp area near Cabin One. Participants should allow about an hour to an hour and a half to walk the complete Prayer Path.

Farewell Nixons



Disciples Center at Tawakoni and the South Central District sent off their camp caretaker and district administrative assistant, Brian and Stephanie Nixon, with a party at camp July 27. At the farewell reception they were presented with a love gift from the regional church and cards of well wishes and thanks.

The Nixons are leaving our employment to begin studies at Brite Divinity School in Ft. Worth, Texas. By the time you receive this newspaper, they will have settled into their new home with their dogs Lola the labradoodle and Klunkers the cockapoo.



Thank you!

Camp Host Vern Failor and Cook Kim Rogers are pictured above with the new double convection oven, installed just before the 2011 camp season. You Kansas Disciples demonstrated your love for children and youth, and the value you place on the spiritual growth experienced at camp, by your enthusiastic and timely support of the campaign to replace the worn-out ovens left behind by the Boy Scouts. If your congregation missed out on participating in this need, check out the camp wish list at www.kansasdiscalples.org. There are needs at every financial level and opportunities for hands-on mission too. Camp support benefits children, youth and adults year-round. Consider the camp facility for your next family reunion, church leadership retreat, company picnic or other event.



A junior camper enjoys cool, refreshing watermelon on a hot day.



In their bright blue camp shirts, Primary campers remind us of cartoon Smurfs. For the full effect, see the color version of the *Kansas Messenger* at www.kansasdiscalples.org.



CYF Alpha youth enjoy a game of basketball using the newly installed hoop at the camp pool.

KDYC 2011: "Intersection" November 11-13 Ramada Inn, Hutchinson

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 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 Brillhard will be featured at the Friday evening after-session. The after-session room will also include game stations, home-baked cookies and popcorn.

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 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 \$45 for the three-day event. Registration information is available at www.kansasdiscalples.org. At camp, youth received KDYC wrist-bands to remind them to save the date!



Intern Training

Every year the camp interns undergo several days of intensive training in order to be certified as facilitators on the Challenge Course, both High Ropes and the Low Course. Their training includes safe operation, leading groups in safe use of the various elements, equipment safety checks, and rescue operations.

International Affairs Seminar 2012

When: March 16-24, 2012

What: Explore faith and peace and justice issues in our nation and world.

Where: New York City and Washington D.C.

Who: High School Juniors and Seniors

Fee: \$1350 includes travel, lodging, meals, program, etc. \$250 deposit due October 15; remainder paid monthly with balance due March 1.

For more information: Contact Steve Martin at 785-266-2914.

Thank You Camp Interns



Taylor, Will, James, Jennifer, and Andy

Each year, Disciples Center at Tawakoni employs five interns for the summer camp season. Interns assist in a myriad of ways. They are lifeguards, challenge course facilitators, dishwashers, and campfire watchers. They help in the kitchen, keep the camp clean, help with maintenance, and support each session's directors and counselors.

Interns reported on May 23 to get ready for camp, planning and

training. After 40 hours of work on the Challenge Course, they were ready to work with youth throughout the summer. The first camp welcomed kids on May 31.

Andy Nixon returned for his third year as an intern; Jennifer Finch and James (Andy) Wildschuetz each returned for their second year. All three were hard workers, excellent with kids and Challenge Course proficient. The Camp Committee was pleased to have them back.

New Interns this year were Will Ramsey of Wellington and Taylor Broadhead of FCC Topeka. Will has completed his first year at Kansas State and has been a lifeguard for the Wellington city pool. We even witnessed him saving a little boy last summer! Taylor has completed her first year at Washburn University, and has her Life Saving certificate. Both Will and Taylor served on the KCYF Cabinet in recent years.

Regional Mission & Ministry

Sotello Long to Facilitate 2011 Men's Retreat



Sotello Long, Regional Minister in the Christian Church in South Carolina

With the theme *Discovering the Joy of Being Different Yet United in Christ*, Kansas Disciples Men are putting the finishing touches on plans for the 2011 fall retreat at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Featured leader is Sotello Long, Regional Minister for the Christian Church in South Carolina. Sotello brings enthusiastic style to his presentations and has a passion for helping the church address issues of diversity within our common life.

The retreat begins Friday, September 23 with registration at 5:00 p.m. and supper at 6:00 pm. Brian Nixon will return from seminary in Texas to lead music, with a mix of traditional and contemporary songs chosen for the theme. An optional pre-retreat work project at the camp begins at 10 a.m., and golfers may tee off on a nearby course at 1 p.m. Pre-registration is required for both.

Individual retreat cost is \$80; five or more from the same congregation may register at the same time for \$75 each, and first time attendees can register for \$50. Registration forms are at www.kansasdisciples.org. Lower bunks will be set up for all men who register by September 9. After that date, you may be climbing!

Disciples Women Host Amy Gopp 2011 Retreats



Kansas Disciples Women are expecting a banner year with Amy Gopp, executive director of Week of Compassion, as keynote speaker for the fall retreats at Disciples Center at Tawakoni in August.

Amy will share her love for the church and for mission with women who attend the annual retreats scheduled for Oct. 5-7 and Oct. 7-9.

This year's retreat theme is *Beyond the Church's Door*. The \$75 fee covers five meals and two nights lodging. If you don't require lodging, \$45 covers two meals.

The Saturday day camp for children, age 2 through middle school, will allow mothers, grandmothers, aunts, etc., to attend one day of the retreat while the children are engaged in activities.

The Helen Schwab Scholarship is available for first-time retreaters and covers up to half of the registration.

Come enjoy fall with your sisters in Christ Oct. 5-7 or Oct. 7-9. Amy says, "I can't wait to get back to Kansas to spend time with my sisters in Christ there! We are going to have a marvelous time together! Get ready, Disciples Women of Kansas!"

Ministry Education Milestones

Angela DeVore of Lyons received the post-M.Div. degree Master of Arts in Missional Church from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, and in March she became a board-certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Amy Foster of Park Place CC in Hutchinson received the degree Master of Arts in Christian Ministry from Friends University.

Kelly Gindlesberger of Kinsley completed his first year at Phillips Theological Seminary receiving three book awards, one from Chalice Press.

Leigh Carlson Burgess Ordained

Leigh Carlson Burgess was ordained at Pine Valley CC in Wichita March 5. Rev. Leigh Carlson Burgess has served as associate pastor at Pine Valley since April 2008. Disciples clergy participating in the ordination service were (L to R): Associate Regional Minister Renee Bridwell, Rev. Leigh Carlson Burgess, Associate Regional Minister Ken Marston, Rev. Robin McGonigle, and Regional Minister Paxton Jones.



Black Ministers Retreat in Wichita

North Heights Christian Church pastor Titus James and his brothers led the singing one evening at the annual Black Ministers Retreat, sponsored by Disciples Home Missions and held March 7-10 at North Heights CC in Wichita. The brothers are (L to R) Eugene, David, Titus, and Timothy. Three of the four are Disciples ministers; Eugene is Co-Transitional Regional Minister in the Michigan Region and Timothy is the Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation.

The retreat featured four days of worship, preaching and Bible studies, along with two workshops and lots of time for fellowship and rest.

Listening, Lingerin, Leading With God

A Young Adult Leadership Conference October 14-15, optional extra day

Are you a 20- or 30- something adult, looking for your place in the church? Do you want to grow in your relationship with God, and enjoy some quality time with others in your generation? This new family-friendly event is designed for you.

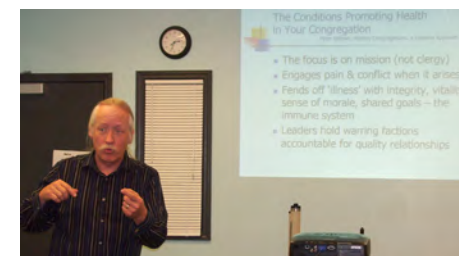
The casual conference begins with dinner at 6 pm on Friday evening, then Resource Leader Christian Piatt's first presentation on the theme *Listening to God*. A campfire is planned afterward. Quality child care with age-appropriate activities will be offered during Piatt's sessions so that parents may participate.

Saturday will begin with a simple come-and-go breakfast to meet the needs of adults and children, early-birds and night-owls. Christian Piatt will bring a presentation on *Lingerin with God*, then you're free to explore the camp or chat with friends.

After lunch Piatt will present on *Leading with God*, and dismiss by 2:30. Child care ends at this time. Some participants may choose to leave at this time, some may extend for a second night. For those staying longer, the rest of the day will be free time, conversations with Christian Piatt and with friends. Participants will go to Wichita for dinner and recreation that evening.

Sunday breakfast will be a simple fare again; the extended conference will conclude with worship at 10 a.m. Complete registration information will be available at www.kansasdisciples.org in late August.

Central District Churches Gather to Encourage and Equip Each Other



Steve Bridwell talks about how to speak "truth in love" to each other.

Encouraging and Equipping Each Other for Mission and Ministry (E2=M2) was the theme of the Central District Assembly on April 30. Seventy people from 14 congregations, including 12 people from the High Plains District, gathered to worship, learn, and fellowship with each other at Celebration Community Church in Hays. The assembly encouraged folks to carry out the mission and ministry of the church in their communities, while also providing opportunities to learn new skills in six workshops which included: How to Reach Children and Youth; The Elder's Hospital Visit; Building Authentic Community Through Small Groups; How to Speak Truth in Love (Conflict Management in the Church); Discovering Your Soul Potential; and Transitioning From the Tried and Tired to Vital (New Approaches to Church Life).



New Minister of Stewardship Education

Jim McCollough has stepped down as Moderator of the Christian Church in Kansas in order to help Kansas congregations teach their members about Christian stewardship. A letter of introduction about the ministry was sent to all congregations in mid-July.

This position was created by the Regional Board because many of our congregations are asking for help in this area or are struggling to fund their overhead costs, forcing painful decisions and leaving little or no money with which to engage in mission. Funding for the part-time position is provided by a grant from the Kansas Bible Chair and from revitalization money in the Raise Up Leaders funds.

Moderator-elect Diane Watkins will fill the unexpired Moderator term, and the Selection Committee is seeking a nominee to serve as Moderator-elect.

Regional News

In Memoriam

Fran Craddock, a pioneer leader in the ministry of Disciples Women for many years, died April 23 in Indianapolis.

Don Macy, 76, died April 24 at his home in White Bird, Idaho. He was a Timothy of Martinson Avenue Christian Church in Wichita. Macy was pastor at the Christian Church in St. John, KS while a student at Phillips Seminary, and at Phillipsburg FCC 1966-1976. Among his surviving siblings is Joan Bohn, wife of retired minister Garland Bohn in Columbus.

Jo Musselwhite, 63, Salina died suddenly at her home July 25. She was an elder of Belmont Blvd. Christian Church, a driving force in the congregation's missional outreach both locally and beyond, a former member of the board of the Christian Church in Kansas, and an ardent supporter of our church camp program.

Sybel Thomas died June 7. She was a member of the first moderator team of the restructured Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and is believed to be the first laywoman and African-American to serve in that role. She had also been president of the World Christian Women's Fellowship and of the National Convocation. She was a trustee of Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago for over 15 years. She and her husband Harvey were elders of Park Manor Christian Church in Chicago.

Jack Milton Bryarly died June 17 in Ashland, Nebraska. He had served as the interim minister at Haysville FCC.

Helen Willhite, 81, of Cottonwood Falls died June 25 at Wesley hospital in Wichita. She was the mother of pastor Gordon Willhite, Sedan.

Cindy Harrold, 59, died July 2 after living with cancer for several years. Her husband Bill is pastor of Shelton Memorial Christian Church in Ulysses. The funeral service was held there on July 5, led by Kinsley FCC pastor Kelly Gindlesberger and Associate Regional Minister Ken Marston.

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

***Robert Bull**, pastor of Riverside CC Wichita, and **Christina** are the proud grandparents of **Samantha Jade Richardson Bull**, born June 7th in Wichita to **Kurt and Stephanie Bull**.*

Happy Birthday!

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



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Spencer Yancey, Wichita Hillside | 101 |
| Alice Liska, Wichita Riverside | 100 |
| Mildred Boggs, Pittsburg | 99 |
| Mary Helget, Dighton | 90 |
| Ralph Janssen, Erie | 90 |
| Dicy Janssen, Erie | 90 |
| Maxiene Erwin, Wellington | 90 |
| Madaline Harrigan, Girard | 90 |
| Rod Bentley, Dighton | 90 |
| Pat Kennedy, Topeka FCC | 90 |
| Kay Hermann, Topeka FCC | 90 |
| Helen Frazier, Wichita New Hope CC | 90 |
| Elsie Brown, Topeka West Side | 90 |
| Maxine Counsellor, Topeka West Side | 90 |
| Ronnie Tousley, Ark City | 80 |
| Kenneth Sly, FCC Salina | 80 |
| Charles Speer, Scott City | 80 |
| Marilyn Yoon, Wichita Pine Valley | 80 |
| Jake Chancey, Pittsburg | 80 |

Happy Anniversary!

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

| | |
|---|----|
| Jack & Martha June Routh, Kingman | 70 |
| John & Betty Wood, Wichita Fairview | 67 |
| Harlan & Naida Ginther, Atwood | 65 |
| Charles & Betty Peterson, Pittsburg | 65 |
| Bill & Dorothy Bowles, Ark City | 60 |
| Richard & Joyce Kellison, Emporia | 60 |
| Charles & Marilyn Speer, Scott City | 60 |
| Floyd & Betty Trail, Atwood | 50 |
| Bill & Yoshie Sagerty, Wichita Hillside | 50 |
| Gary & Sandy Howard, Ulysses | 50 |
| Karl & Linda Willey, Caldwell | 50 |
| Robert & Carol Annis, Ulysses | 50 |

The Kansas Messenger is available online at
www.kansasdisciples.org.

If you view the Kansas Messenger online and no longer wish to receive a print copy in the mail, please let us know by emailing
scd@kansasdisciples.org

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



Ordination Anniversaries 30 years and more

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Clifford Nantz | August 1936 |
| Earl Bowers | September 1950 |
| George Bever | August 1951 |
| Jim Larson | October 1956 |
| Ben Duerfeldt | August 1957 |
| Ray Kerstetter | August 1958 |
| Richard Dickinson | August 1960 |
| Garland Bohn | October 1960 |
| Jay Gideon | August 1961 |
| Robert Heckard | October 1961 |
| Don Richardson | October 1962 |
| George Kemp | September 1965 |
| Robert Brown | October 1965 |
| June Cline | October 1972 |
| David Webb | September 1973 |
| Linda Kemp | September 1973 |
| Paxton Jones | August 1975 |
| Jerry Zanker | August 1976 |
| Steve Martin | September 1980 |

In Transition

Dale Matherly of Indiana will begin his ministry as pastor of First Christian Church in Topeka on August 28.



Atwood First Christian Church has called **Mike McVay** to serve as interim minister.



The interim minister at Central Christian Church in Caldwell is **Kathy Bryant**; she recently completed an interim ministry at Ark City Central CC.



Belmont Blvd. Christian Church in Salina has called **Steve Bridwell** as their interim minister, beginning June 1.