



KANSAS MESSENGER

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

www.kansasdisciples.org



VOL. 115, NO. 2 May 2011

Board Recommends Watkins Serve Second Term



At the opening session of the recent 2011 meeting, the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted to recommend to the General Assembly that the Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins serve a second six-year term as General Minister and President.

Watkins accepted the Board's recommendation to widespread applause and thanked the group for their support of her leadership.

"The church is blessed to have faithful leaders who have engaged in this process of discernment," said Watkins. "I am grateful to all who have given of their time to help shape the next six years through the re-election process."

Watkins became the first woman to serve as General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), following her election at the 2005 General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. In 2009, Dr. Watkins was selected as the first woman to preach at the National Prayer Service at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. as part of inaugural activities for President Barack Obama. She also served on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Watkins' name will be forwarded to the General Assembly in Nashville, TN, July 9-13. The vote to re-elect Watkins takes place at the Assembly.

More Than Money: Help For Your Congregation

Is money an issue in your congregation? In your home? ***More Than Money: Living In Grateful Response To Our Generous God*** is the theme for the 2011 TEAM2—Transforming Everyone Around Mission and Ministry. Bruce Barkhauer, Disciples' Minister for Faith and Giving, will lead this event, giving three keynote presentations and a workshop on family budgeting.

This helpful event is August 26-27 at Hillside Christian Church in Wichita. TEAM2 opens with dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday evening and will close on Saturday by 3:30 p.m. Participants may check in as early as 3:30 p.m. on Friday.

Participants will be able to select two from a dozen workshops offered.

Those who are able to come early will have the option of a third workshop on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. Workshops include Spirituality of Stewardship, Global Mission and Mission Trips, Intentional Interim Ministry, Re-visioning the Pastoral Relations Committee, Stewardship of Accumulated Resources, and more.

For the first time, the annual Youth Sponsors Training will be included in TEAM2. Those who desire this training will register for all three workshops with Michael Davison.

Additional information is available at www.kansasdisciples.org. Registration forms will be available soon, on the website and emailed to your church office.



Pentecost Offering June 5 & 12

Iglesia Discipulos de Cristo in Garden City and Breakthrough Community Church in Wichita are just two of the churches that were started as a result of the New Church Movement, and there are more in the works. Today New Church Ministry can claim that 640 new churches have been formed since 2001. This is good news worth celebrating!

Through these new congregations, the movement is reaching more than 40,000 Disciples and counting. What is our goal? Disciples hope to start 1,000 new churches by 2020. By supporting the Pentecost Offering you are expanding the efforts of the New Church Movement.

The New Church Movement is supported primarily by funds raised by the annual Pentecost Offering. One-half of this offering provides support for new church planter training, coaching, grants, and other services to support the New Church Movement. The other half remains in Kansas to support the new churches which are being started in our region.

Expanding the Table is the theme for the Pentecost Offering. As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we welcome all to the table. Our Christian table is constantly expanding and reaching beyond social and economic boundaries to extend our witness.

New Church Ministry seeks to continue to expand the table to reach new mission fields, journey to new frontiers and touch more lives. Support for this special day offering is more crucial than ever.

Please help New Church Ministry continue expanding the table to reach more people by bringing God's message to new places and new communities. By Expanding the Table, we share the witness of Christ. The Pentecost Offering will be received on June 5 & 12.

You can mail an offering to Christian Church in Kansas, 2914 SW MacVicar, Topeka, KS 66611-1787.

Young Adult/ Young Family Regional Event

Disciples Center at Tawakoni
October 14-15

Author & Speaker
Christian Piatt will keynote



Contact Renee Bridwell,
rbridwell@kansasdisciples.org
for more information.



Get Involved in General Assembly

Ever wish you could tell your friends you played live to a crowd of thousands at a gig in Nashville, TN? Bring your guitar to the 2011 General Assembly July 9-13 and you can mark that item off your bucket list. You can even order the t-shirt to prove you did it! Planners hope at least 100 will sign up for the guitar ensemble, which will play at the 7 p.m. Sat., July 9, Opening Worship of the Assembly. Go to www.disciples.org/ga to register.

In the November issue of the *Kansas Messenger* we told you how you can make stoles for the General Assembly. Total number of stoles needed is 300. Feel free to make more than one! For more information and to download the pattern and instructions go to <http://www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/TellIt/AssemblyStoles/tabid/800/Default>.

Coming Events:

Clergy Boundary Training, Great Bend	May 24	
General Assembly, Nashville, TN	July 9-13	Page 1
Clergy Boundary Training, Wichita	July 30	
Clergy Boundary Training, Topeka	Aug 4	
TEAM2 Regional Event	Aug 26-27	Page 1

Save the date:

Gala and Auction, Disciples Center Tawakoni	Sept 17	Page 5
Men's Retreat, Disciples Center Tawakoni	Sept 23-24	
Women's Retreats, Disciples Center Tawakoni	Oct 5-7, 7-9	Page 3
Young Adult Event, Disciples Center Tawakoni	Oct 14-15	Page 1
Kansas Disciples Youth Convention, Hutchinson	Nov 11-13	

Peace Offerings

Paxton Jones, Regional Minister

In the February issue of the *Kansas Messenger* I shared some of the issues that concern me as your Regional Minister. Now let me share with you some of the things that excite me about our life together in this ever-changing landscape we know as the regional church.

Your Regional Board embraced two new programs during the February 2011 meeting that hold great promise for our future.

One of the significant needs identified in last year's Listening Conferences was better leadership training in our congregations. In response, a trio of Disciple pastors created the **Academy for Disciples Leadership Formation**® designed "to deepen the individual's Christian faith and leadership skills in the core practices of prayer, worship, scripture, serving, relating, and giving, thereby strengthening the congregation."

This two-year program will be taught by outstanding scholars recruited by the Academy's leadership—retired Disciple pastor Jim McCollough, retired Regional Minister Patsie Sweden, and Disciple pastor and church consultant David Webb. Upon their request, the Regional Board endorsed this Academy as a pilot program in the Kansas Region.

The second and equally exciting proposal, approved unanimously by the Board, was for a part-time, contract staff position to serve as

Minister of Stewardship Education.

This person, when invited, will work directly with congregations to promote and teach stewardship, assist with stewardship campaigns, and preach on occasion.

Applications for this position are being received in the Topeka office; the deadline is May 15; and our goal is to have the position filled before June 1. Funding for the first year will primarily come from funds earmarked for "Struggling Congregations" during the recently concluded Raise Up Leaders Capital Campaign. Grant applications are being submitted for funding beyond the first year.

A third item, directly benefitting me and indirectly benefitting the Region, was the Board's gracious approval of my sabbatical proposal for this summer. My late father once said that "ministers have the worst of all jobs, and the best of all professions." Although we have 'a front row seat' for all that is right with the Church, it is dealing on a continual basis with all that is 'wrong' that wears heavily on the regional church staff. I believe—and the Regional Board agreed—that you deserve a Regional Minister who is refreshed and on top of his 'game' for the future ministry that we share.

Thus this summer (except during General Assembly) I will spend time renewing my heart, mind and spirit by engaging in a variety of projects unrelated to the daily ministries of the office: auditing a New Testament course at Phillips Theological



Seminary in Tulsa, reading some of the more recent works pertaining to the Disciples that have amassed unread upon my bookshelves, editing my late father's church newsletter columns for possible publication [a task begun in 2004], and attending to another pet project or two. I am neither naïve nor foolish enough to think I can accomplish all of these goals during a single sabbatical ... but the time away will provide a much-needed break to refresh myself mentally, emotionally and physically.

I sincerely appreciate the Board's granting of this sabbatical—and the willingness of the regional church staff to cover my responsibilities from June 1 – August 31.

Grace and peace,
Paxton

SE District Assembly

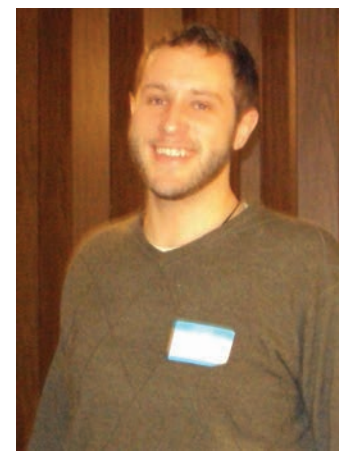


Photo courtesy of FCC Chanute

SE District churches met on March 12 at FCC Chanute to celebrate outreach ministries. Each congregation brought a display to depict their outreach efforts, and several brought food as well. The Chanute congregation provided smoked ribs and chicken. Pictured is Ryan Turner of Ohio who recently spent a year in India as an Overseas Ministries Intern, working in HIV/AIDS support and awareness. Turner was knowledgeable and articulate. He and many other young adults participated in the day's activities.

Missionary Visits Wichita

Ryan Turner (above) visited New Hope Christian Church on March 13, after speaking at the Southeast District Assembly on March 12. He served one year as a Global Mission Intern in the community development program of the Deep Griha Society in Pune, India. His ministry is made possible because of funds provided by the Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Turner brought the message in morning worship and gave a second presentation after the congregation's chili and stew dinner.

Christian Church in 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

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
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
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

Stephanie Nixon

Administrative Assistant
Kansas Messenger Copy Editor
Webmaster

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Phone: 316-775-1222

MESSENGER READERS:

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The Church Beyond Our Borders

~~ from our Global Mission Partner ~~

Many joyous greetings and blessings all the way from sunny and dusty Santa Cruz del Quiche, Guatemala!

My husband Santos, our children Nicolas Virgilio (2 yrs.) and Ixbalanke Gloria (5 months) (all pictured right) continue to be present where I serve at Guatemalan Cultural Action (ACG). Guatemalan Cultural Action works on sustainable, ecologically sound projects with Mayan communities in Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango and K'iche'/Ixcaán. These three were the most impacted during the war, and the most marginalized and excluded by the Guatemalan government.

This is an electorate year, which means an exaggerated propaganda year. With 29 political parties enlisted, the population is disoriented. Crime and violence increase also, creating social and political instability. The main concerns and those that communities are speaking about are two political parties.

The first is the National Unity for Hope (UNE), which is the current government under President Alvaro Colom. The last year and a half have brought uncertainty due to incompetent and unequal social assistance programs within the nation. However, the UNE received the majority vote of the indigenous population two years ago and may again because of concern about the UNE's fiercest opponent.

The opposition is the Patriot Party with a political agenda and Iron Fist slogan, *bring back the violencia (war)*, the war that lasted more than 40 years. Since the indigenous population suffered the most from the war, this



majority voted for the UNE. While there are 29 political parties still standing, my guess is that the main parties will again be the UNE and the Patriot Party. The Patriot Party is notorious for their militarized ideology with a touch of "democracy and modernity."

This does not exclude the current administration's militarized strategy in geographic and political areas of the country. I refer to the continuing debate about mining in Guatemala, and the social and cultural impact of its land exploitation and environmental impacts. Also, the fight against drugs and drug cartels is used to justify the militarization and intimidation that many indigenous communities now face.

I highlight this country situation as a way to ask for your continued prayers and blessings for the many Guatemalan people who endure this historic political grief. While our family has not experienced any direct effects or intimidation, we are indirectly affected by living here and feeling the political and social unrest. I humbly ask for your prayers for our family as well.

Respectfully,
Gloria Vicente

Disciple Distinctiveness: Why it Matters

by Pat Easton (pen name of a collective of KS Disciples clergy)

We Disciples have always taken the Bible seriously. When Barton Stone was asked to affirm the Westminster Confession, a doctrinal statement of faith proscribed by the Presbyterian Church, he affirmed with conditions: only where it agreed with scripture. Stone would not be an ordinary Presbyterian. Eventually he left the church of his birth for simple Christianity which took as its guide the Bible alone. Creeds—and the doctrinal uniformity they secured—would have no place in our church.

Thomas Campbell and son Alexander also ventured out to claim the New Testament as the standard. In time we adopted the slogan, "Where the scriptures speak, we speak; where the scriptures are silent, we are silent."

In the February issue we wrote on unity, but unity for unity's sake is insufficient. Thomas Campbell wrote, "Union in truth has been, and ever must be, the desire and prayer of all such; 'Union in truth' is our motto. The Divine word is our standard; in the Lord's name do we display our banners." He was speaking of truth as found in the Bible.

Early in our history we experienced a double-edged sword of biblical interpretation. Alexander Campbell believed that since the scriptures contain no condemnation of slavery he could not be an abolitionist. Yet two of his grown daughters, with their husbands, claimed scriptural authority for their involvement in the Underground Railroad. Though they disagreed on this point of biblical interpretation, there is no sign that the

Campbell family lost any respect or love for one another.

The Campbells did not divide, but our history as a Bible-believing people has been marked by many divisions over scripture. Among our members are many approaches to interpreting the Bible. Whether we lean literal, legalistic, literary, metaphorical, or another way, we Disciples are ultimately seeking that

place in the biblical witness that increases our sense of identity as believers and brings us together in the family of God.

We believe and teach that each person is obligated to study and interpret the Bible. We are expected to share what we have learned, for guidance and to

encourage the faith of others. This is the most distinct thing that can be said about our use of scripture; no hierarchy or other human authority instructs our belief but we receive divine inspiration in scripture from God. The authority of scripture is not dependent on professors or trained clergy but on our shared study and in our dynamic relationship with God who spoke, and still speaks.

At our 1995 General Assembly we affirmed, "We love the Bible and take it seriously, but we do not demand a uniform approach to Scripture. We believe the Bible bears decisive witness to the gospel of the living God." By this statement one might say that Disciples take the Bible so seriously that we maintain a living relationship with it, recognizing the biblical patterns in our lives just as we witness the effect of God on us.



Kansas Disciple Women's Retreat Disciples Center at Tawakoni October 5-7 Midweek October 7-9 Weekend

Full Retreat \$75 - Partial Retreat \$45

Day Camp Saturday, October 8
8:00 a.m. children age 2- junior high
\$25 first child, \$20 additional child



Keynote Speaker:
Amy Gopp, Executive Director
Week of Compassion

Join us in being informed, inspired
and invigorated! All women are
invited and encouraged to attend.

Registration for Retreat and Day
Camp can be found at
www.kansasdisciples.org

Together We Care!

Kansas Christian Home's 26th Annual Legacy of John Benefit Dinner is July 30, 6 pm, at the Marriott in Wichita.

The theme, *Together We Care*, is a fitting one. For over 25 years, caring Disciples have given time and resources to LOJ, allowing KCH to provide quality care to residents. In recent years gifts have subsidized Medicaid for 65% of our residents, funded new medical equipment, and allowed us to purchase items for residents who can't afford them. LOJ also helps underwrite the cost of Tilsley Manor, enabling retired ministers, missionaries and their spouses to live in comfort and security, all because of the your generosity. We do it together!

Disciples are invited to the 26th Annual Legacy of John Dinner to benefit the residents of KCH. To host or sponsor a table for your church or for reservations call the Office of Development at KCH (316) 283-6600, ext. 113. Reservations can be made at www.kansaschristianhome.com.

Nurturing Your Spirit

by Danny Ginn



WILL POWER- How much will power do you have? The truth is that your will is not that strong. Some suggest, and I believe, that we don't have much will power at all. Have you ever noticed a perverse desire down deep inside to follow through on something that is not morally good for you, but when it comes to seeking something good your will power easily fails?

This is because God has designed our wills for a much more basic function. Let me suggest that your will only has the power to make a choice. Once that choice is made, there has to be power from somewhere else to carry it out—especially if we are choosing something morally good.

So, here's a spiritual experiment you can try. Make a choice today that is something good for you or someone you know. Listen to God before you choose. Once you make the choice, as quickly as possible ask God to empower the choice with the strength and resolve that comes from the Holy Spirit within you. Practice this throughout the day. Remember that "practice makes permanent." Whenever you feel weak ask for the Spirit to give you power. Don't hesitate. The big thing is never rely on your own strength. Your will power is just for choosing. The strength for good things comes from the Holy Spirit of God working in you after you choose. So pray, choose the good, and seek the strength you need from God. Try it. See what happens.

May God bless your good choices with the power to carry them out.

Within and Beyond the Congregations



Photo courtesy of FCC Fredonia

Left to Right: Shirley Freeman, Mardina Gregory, Jan Eslick-Black, Lucine Reed

Prayer Shawl Ministry

At the suggestion of former interim minister, Jim Bell, eleven women of First Christian Church in Fredonia started a prayer shawl ministry. Each month they decide who needs shawls, and work on them at home. Completed shawls are brought to the church for prayer and dedication before being distributed. So far 145 prayer shawls have been made and given to members of the congregation and community. Recipients say the shawls give them hope and encouragement and they can feel the love and prayers that went into making them. Mardina Gregory chairs the committee; co-chair is Lucine Reed. Members include: Sue Ann Bolton, Nancy Burns, Jan Eslick, Shirley Freeman, Jane Ellen Hutton, Liz Jeffers, Clara McCluskey, Brenda Shue and Dorothy Thornton.

Hillside CC Observes Laity Sunday



Photo courtesy of Hillside CC

Disciples Home Missions President Ron Degges visited Hillside Christian Church in Wichita and brought the sermon for Laity Sunday.

Annually on this Sunday the congregation recognizes a lay person who has offered outstanding service over the years. This year's honoree is Isabel Gates (pictured above, with pastor Bill McConnell), who was named Trustee Emeritus. Since joining Hillside in the 1950's she has served in many leadership roles, including most recently being a trustee when the church decided to build its gymnasium.

FCC Dighton is celebrating their 125th anniversary on May 29. Former pastors and members are encouraged to attend. A reception will follow the service.

Final Gifts Seminar

by Zak Manuszak

There's a song that says, "Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die."

Dr. Rick Gibson, a Friends University professor and licensed counselor, visited Riverside Christian Church in Wichita to help the congregation put that thought in perspective. Dr. Gibson presented a seminar based on the book *Final Gifts* by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley. It was his third Final Gifts seminar for RCC in the past 10 years.

Authors Callanan and Kelley are hospice nurses who work closely with the dying every day. Gibson relied heavily on the book when he lost a parent, and was so taken by its message that he's been offering seminars ever since, bringing the book to life with anecdotes and personal experiences.

Gibson said when we're faced with the imminent death of a family member or loved one, we worry about the loss and fail to see the gifts. We let our own lives get in the way, taking the gifts for granted until the finiteness of the dying person's life is too apparent to avoid. He agrees fully with the book, which says you need to listen to the dying more than you talk. People who talk to comfort the dying are usually comforting themselves. Sometimes, he says, we may actually prolong the dying process or make it more difficult for the person to let go when we fail to listen and try to understand. "You need to be present. You need to listen. Be careful not to smother the dying person. You need to give them room to die," he said.



Photo courtesy of Riverside CC

Rick Gibson forcefully makes a point during his Final Gifts Seminar.

Gibson also emphasizes one of the book's main points, that too often we dismiss statements of the dying as babbling or delirium, when in fact, they are trying to tell us what they need so they can let go, or giving us something important to hold on to after they're gone.

Gibson said, "You can either wallow in self-pity or accept death as a given and move forward positively."

RCC Elder Ken Schuette was the primary coordinator of the event.

12th Annual Navajo Taco Feast

Hungry people began lining up before the doors opened at First Christian Church in Garden City, and they kept coming all day. Church members served Navajo tacos from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., hundreds of plates of fry bread covered with seasoned beef, lettuce, salsa and more, all with fruit or cream pie for dessert. This is the 12th year for the feed, a fundraiser for local missions. "It gets bigger every year," said elder Gail Frank who coordinated the dinner.



Photo courtesy of FCC Garden City

2-year-old Breqlynne Rhoades, daughter of church member Bridget Rhoades.

Mortgage Burning



Photo courtesy of FCC Great Bend

First Christian Church in Great Bend celebrated its building debt retirement with a Mortgage Burning held on November 21. The entire church took part in the celebration by placing bits of the mortgage into flames. The previous church building had been located at 2200 Broadway since 1925. After prayerful consideration, the church voted to build at its present location. Construction began in 1997 and the church began worshipping at its new location in 1999.

Toys for Tennyson



Photo courtesy of FCC Leavenworth

World Outreach Chairperson Kathy Nowlan shows off the carload of gifts for children served by the Tennyson Center for Children in Denver. This was the second year that the Leavenworth First Christian Church collected gifts for the Tennyson Center, a Disciples outreach ministry.

Pine Valley CC Hosts Diversity Forum



Photo courtesy of Pine Valley CC

Wichita City Councilwoman LaVonta Williams (pictured above), speaks at a recent forum hosted by Pine Valley Christian Church in Wichita. About a hundred people-half of them from beyond the church- attended the forum, *Diversity in Wichita: Building Bridges of Compassion*, a conversation with community leaders around the subject of diversity, acceptance and compassion in the city.

Mark McCormick, Director of Communications at the Kansas Leadership Center, moderated the panel which in addition to Ms. Williams, included Sherri Luthe of the Mental Health Association, Sue Castile of Inter-Faith Ministries, Hassam Farhoud representing the Islamic Society of Wichita, Inga Taylor from the GLBT community, and John Allison, Superintendent of Wichita Public Schools.

Panelists shared their understanding of what Wichita is doing effectively to embrace diversity, and identified new bridges required to overcome barriers to becoming a more fully diverse and accepting city. The audience joined the conversation with questions and comments during the second hour.

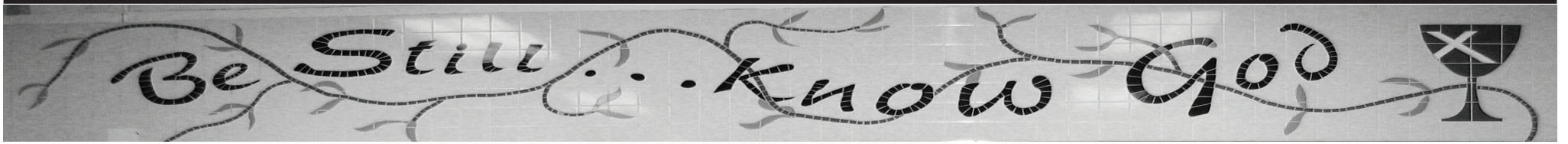
Human Rights Award



Photo courtesy of North Heights CC

In April Jessie J. Robinson (above left) of North Heights Christian Church in Wichita was given the Human Rights Award by the National Church Women United, Inc. for her leadership, mentor service, social activism in human rights development, and advocacy for peace and justice with no boundaries of political system, country, cultural background or religion. The award was presented by Marge Zakoura-Vaughan, Chairperson of the Wichita CWU Human Rights Celebration.

Camp and Youth Ministries



Spring Youth Retreats a Success

Chi Rho retreat in February focused on loving others and understanding that Jesus' love means no bully-like behavior. Travis McKee of Pittsburg stepped in to keynote. The 85 youth and adult sponsors enjoyed great weather, wonderful food, and lots of activities, all planned by Kelli Frazier of Great Bend. *Signs and Wonders*, a youth band from Atchison FCC, provided the music.



Photo courtesy of staff

CYF youth turned out in record numbers: 127 youth and 20 youth sponsors! Rev. Russ Boyd of University CC, Fort Worth, TX brought the keynote addresses on *Disciples Core Values*. Musical leadership was provided by *Ironic Outcome*, the high school band from Atchison FCC. The weekend activities were planned by the KCYF Cabinet and they led small buzz groups following each keynote. Next year's retreat will feature an emphasis on *No Book but the Bible*.

Three Memorial Gifts Given to Camp



Photo courtesy of staff

From left: Ace Arteaga (Goodland), Tyler Jones (Goodland), Haleigh Denny (Columbus), and Jesse Cooper (Goodland).

Late last fall, two beautiful Cleveland Pears were purchased and professionally planted in memory of loved ones lost. The tree and bench near the Outdoor Chapel are in memory of Loren Ault, spouse of Karen Ault Harvester of Hays. A similar tree and two benches are positioned just east of the Dining Hall in memory of Loren Cline, spouse of June Cline of Newton. A bench near the Leadership Lodge was donated in memory of Anthony Biggs, son of Darrell and Rowe Ann Biggs of Girard.

If you are interested in memorial gifts to the campground contact Rev. Steve Martin at 800-737-8130.

Winfield Teen Serves on General Youth Council

Caroline Fulbright, daughter of Winfield pastor Dennis Fulbright and wife Pam, recently returned from her first meeting with the General Youth Council, the youth and adults from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who plan youth activities at General Assembly and the International Youth Conference. This is her reflection on that experience.

Being on the General Youth Council (GYC) is incredible. Teenagers who are different in many ways come together to lead and to worship as one. Each of us are leaders in our own way. We have different talents and ideas that when brought together, create an experience that other youth can share with friends and remember.

Sometimes as Christians we forget that we should unite as one and be leaders for those who do not know Jesus. That is where being on GYC is a great opportunity.

IMAGINE if Everyone Cared

On April 9, 130 youth and adults from FCC and Oakland CC in Topeka, FCC Atchison, FCC Columbus, Galva CC, and FCC Salina gathered in Topeka to imagine what would happen if everyone cared. The IMAGINE event raises awareness of the civil war in Northern Uganda and the violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The youth raised a thousand dollars prior to the event to "bite back" against malaria. Funds will provide 107 nets for families in Northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Youth also took part in a peace rally and slept in a box village to experience what it would be like to sleep in displacement camps. Mark Young, senior at Topeka West High School, said the event was important because "I feel like everyone should be safe in their own beds at the very least and when we are out here people realize that not everyone is as lucky as we are."

For information on how you can help in the fight against malaria visit: www.nothingbutnets.net



Photo courtesy of Caroline Fulbright
Caroline is standing- top left.

While I was in Nashville with the Youth Council, we came together for a devotion. We sat in a circle and were asked questions. Each time someone answered a question, a ball of yarn was tossed to them. In the end we all held parts of a giant "web"

of yarn and we had become closer to each other. Several thoughts came to me as I held the yarn in my hand. Each of us is a leader. Each of us can make a difference. We can reach out to those who do not know God and bring

them into the "web". We can find unbelievers and help them believe.

In July, I will attend General Assembly in Nashville. This is going to be a great opportunity for youth and for adults. Youth activities include fun and games, and MANY opportunities to learn how to become a Christian leader.

Youth Rally at Woodridge CC



Photo courtesy of staff

Dodgeball is a popular activity at the South Central District youth rally at Woodridge Christian Church in Wichita. The annual January event draws about 100 youth and includes games, food, witness and worship.

130 youth and adults from six Kansas Disciples churches participated in the IMAGINE event pictured below.

Photo courtesy of FCC Topeka

Gala Set for September 17

Mark your calendars! The **2011 Disciples Center at Tawakoni Gala & Auction** will be held Saturday, September 17, at our campground. More information on donations and registrations is at www.kansasdsciples.org under Disciples Center and Gala.

Our auctioneer from last year, John Hamm, will return to tempt you to bid on all the great auction items plus the silent and bucket auctions set up in the Leadership Lodge.



Photo courtesy of staff

You won't want to miss this exciting event which supports our outdoor ministry programs for children, youth, and adults.



Photo courtesy of staff

IAS Students Informed, Disturbed

Twenty-six youth and sponsors on the 2011 International Affairs Seminar stopped in front of National City Christian Church for this photo. The IAS experience is offered annually to high school juniors and seniors in the Christian Church in Kansas to broaden and challenge their faith and help them learn the ways that faithful and courageous Christians can make an impact in the world. One participant described their experience this year on the theme of **Human Trafficking** as a "great, informative, and disturbing week!"

For more information on Human Trafficking visit www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/DW-SocialActionBreakChainsResources

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We can't say it often enough – thank you! According to our records, each of these people gave direct support to the listed ministries or funds of the Christian Church in Kansas in 2010: the Annual Fund, which undergirds all the ministries of CCK; the Disciples Center at Tawakoni, which houses our camping program and many year-round ministries; and the Kansas Messenger, one of our best means of communication about the ministries of the regional church and our congregations. We apologize in advance for any overlooked or incorrectly printed names; please let us know of any changes that need to be made. Thank you! A contribution envelope will be included in our next issue. We are grateful for your ongoing support. Thank you!

Regional News

In Memoriam

Barbara A. Allen died February 6 in Manhattan. She was pastor of Martinson Ave CC in Wichita for eleven years prior to becoming NE Area Minister for the Mid-America Region in 1998. Declining health forced her retirement in 2005. A former Regional Moderator in Kansas (1994-1996), she was the widow of Associate Regional Minister Paul J. Allen III and the mother of Paul J. Allen IV, minister of FCC Manhattan.

Regional staff member Barb Runge's brother, **Donny Leavel**, died March 8 in Kansas City after a brief illness.

Carolyn Bever, wife of Dighton and Utica pastor Harold Bever, died March 25 in Burbank, California. A memorial service was held April 9 at First Christian Church in Dighton.

Dale DeWeese of Kingman died March 27. He was the brother of Dwane DeWeese of Pratt, Farm and Mineral Rights Manager for the Christian Church in Kansas.

Remember in Your Will:
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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!

Happy Birthday!

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



Velma Wancura, Dighton	104
Bernice Johnson, McPherson	100
Hattie Toth, Atwood	100
Wilma Jones, Caldwell	95
Beulah Rees, Haysville	95
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Maxine Erwin, Wellington	90
Ada Baker, Wellington	80
Mary Wilson, Coffeyville	80

Happy Anniversary!

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

Ray and Mary Hulsey, Coffeyville	70
Charles and Betty Peterson, Pittsburg	65
Cecil and Wanda Schneider, Goodland	65
Jack and Mickey Siglinger, Phillipsburg	60
Charles and Barbara Riggs, Conway Springs	60
Don and Evelyn De Tar, Coffeyville	60
Roy and Gerry Browning, Topeka West Side	60
Bruce and Jackie Addington, Wichita P Valley	60
Richard & Joyce Kellison, Emporia	60
Jim and Ruby Read, Chanute	50



Ordination Anniversaries 30 years and more

John Foust	May 1940
Bob E. Brown	June 1950
Herbert Kreller	June 1951
Bill Imhoff	June 1951
Emerson Gillett	May 1952
Bob Langston	June 1954
Roy Browning	June 1955
Bill Nowlan	May 1956
Jim Bell	July 1957
David Carter	May 1959
George Lespagnard	June 1959
John Bartlett	June 1959
Larry Anderson	May 1963
Bill Boyle	June 1963
Melvin Walton	May 1966
Ron Dow	May 1967
Dan Haggard	July 1968
Ron Cobb	June 1969
Rebecca Bunton	June 1970
Bob Colerick	May 1971
Lee Hendon	June 1973
Phil Radatz	May 1974
Bill Johnson	July 1974
Jim McCollough	June 1976
David Jenkins	May 1978
Titus James	June 1979
Gary Bell	June 1980

What's the news from your congregation?

For the August issue of the Kansas Messenger, send articles and photos before **June 15** to

Messenger@kansasdisciples.org

Congratulations!

Dakota James Gosik was born on Saturday, February 26. His parents are Jerry & Amanda Gosik; Amanda is pastor at First Christian Church in Holton.

In Transition

Chris Edwards will close her ministry at Atwood First Christian Church on June 6.



Steve Allen has resigned as minister at Central Christian Church in Caldwell. He will begin a new ministry in Crofton, KY on June 1.



Greg Guy has resigned as minister of Belmont Blvd. Christian Church in Salina. He will begin a new ministry in KY on June 1.



Central Christian Church in Ark City has called **Dennis Voth** as their new pastor, beginning May 1. Voth's installation will be May 15 at 2 p.m. **Kathy Bryant's** intentional interim ministry there will conclude April 30.