



Disciples News Service



 **Disciples News Service**
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

June 17, 2009

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PENTECOST WORSHIP SERVICE RAISES HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION

Two faith communities, divided along racial lines for more than 140 years, planted new seeds of reconciliation at a recent Pentecost worship service in North Carolina. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ International, (sometimes referred to as the Assembly churches) worshiped together on May 31 in Goldsboro, N.C. General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) delivered the closing sermon held at St. Mark's Church of Christ in Goldsboro. St. Mark's pastor, Alton A. Smith, was recently installed as general bishop of the Assembly churches.

"Seen from a historical perspective, the Pentecost Fellowship Service was very significant," said Watkins. "It was an honor to share in the worship with General Bishop Smith. It's the significance for the future that is so powerful about this event...20a future where we hope to overcome the brokenness of the past and display instead the wholeness of one human family as God intended us".

John Richardson, Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina, participated in the worship service and in written comments said the service, "opens a door we walk through together – black and white – to work together toward faithful solutions." To also read reflections from Timothy James, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the Convocation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), go to:

www.disciples.org/tabid/58/itemid/290/Comments-on-Pentecost.aspx

To read a news summary of the event, visit DisciplesWorld at: www.disciplesworld.com/newsArticle.html?wsnID=15422

COMMUNIQUE PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF RECENT GENERAL BOARD ACTION

A summary of news from the spring meeting of the 2009 General Board can now be viewed on line by going to www.disciples.org/generalboard

Communi que, is the publication that highlights the actions and activities of the yearly General Board meeting. This year's Communique carries articles about the work of the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council, reports from general and regional ministries, updates on the Disciples Mission Fund giving and General Assembly planning. Communique also contains information about resolutions forwarded by the General Board to the upcoming General Assembly for action. Those resolutions looked at such issues as climate change, global mission outreach and new ways for Disciples to address moral, ethical or justice issues.

HELPERS NEEDED TO STAFF RECYCLING STATIONS DURING ASSEMBLY

Organizers of the upcoming General Assembly are taking steps to minimize the negative impact on the environment during the Assembly and request your help. Volunteers are needed to assist at five recycling stations that will be available throughout the Indiana Convention Center during this year's Assembly in Indianapolis, July 29 - Aug. 2. The work is minimal but crucial to the success of the recycling program and the efforts to make this event greener.

The plan is to recycle plastic, aluminum and paper. Please visit the "Keeping It 'Green'" section of the General Assembly website:

www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/KeepingItGreen/tabid/341/Default.aspx

Contact Eli Rolon for a sign-up form or with any questions at er.jeong@yahoo.com or 708-574-8675.

COLORADO CHURCH MAKES GIFT TO DISCIPLES MISSION FUND

First Christian Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., has tithed a portion of a recent bequest to Disciples Mission Fund, the common fund that supports the wider mission of the church. First Christian recently received a \$111,000 bequest from the estate of a long-term church member. Using the congregation's "Wills and Bequest" policy, 10 percent of the bequest is directed to Disciples Mission Fund. The name of the Endowment Fund is the Wallace and Guida Robertson Endowment Fund.

"First Christian Church has a long tradition of tithing 10 percent to Disciples Mission Fund," said David Van Heyningen, interim pastor. "We give, because in giving we discover that spiritual connection with a God who gives again and again. For the spiritual health of individuals and congregations it is important to give and to share our resources." For more on First Christian in Colorado Springs, visit: www.firstchristiancos.org

WEEK OF COMPASSION ADDRESSES WORSENING PAKISTAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Week of Compassion is working with its partners, Church World Service (CWS), and Action by Churches Working Together (ACT) International, to assist scores of people who have been displaced by the recent escalation of fighting in Pakistan. The latest offensive by the Pakistan military against Taliban insurgents in northwest Pakistan has displaced more than 2.5 million people. Week of Compassion (WOC), the relief, refugee and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is receiving gifts to help internally displaced persons in Pakistan. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their villages by the heavy bombardments and shooting between the two warring sides. To make an online donation, go to secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=6566 or send a gift to WOC, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206. To read more about Week of Compassion visit: www.weekofcompassion.

[org](#)

FLORIDA DRIVE-IN DISCIPLES CHURCH FEATURED IN NATIONAL BROADCAST

The CBS Sunday Morning News recently featured a report about a Florida Disciples Church that has a unique ministry. The TV network profiled Daytona Beach Drive In Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Daytona Beach, Fla. The church holds Sunday services at a former drive-in movie facility, where people attend in the convenience of their vehicles. "It's the message of God. We just deliver it in a different way," Larry G. Deitch, senior minister of the congregation, told CBS. The church has about 900 participating members. To view the CBS video, visit: www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=5069293n&tag=contentMain;contentBody

To learn more about Daytona Beach Drive In Christian Church, visit their web site at: www.driveinchurch.net

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN FOR CLERGY WELLNESS RETREAT

New pastors who are facing the realities of serving in congregations are encouraged to sign up for the Clergy Wellness Retreat, which will take place July 28 in Indianapolis. The one-day gathering, entitled, "Called to Lead: A Clergy Wellness Retreat for New Pastors," is sponsored by the Pension Fund and Disciples Home Missions. It will take place the day before the General Assembly, which runs July 29 - Aug. 2.

"Tips for a Calmer You" is among the topics to be presented at the retreat. Registrations are due no later than June 28 to ensure your place at the retreat. To register, go to: www.pensionfund.org and click on "Clergy Wellness Retreat." For more information contact Tod Iseminger at 888-346-2631 or tiseming@dhm.disciples.org.

DISCIPLES AMONG LEADERS ASKING FOR INVESTIGATION ON TORTURE

A group of 33 religious leaders, including five Disciples, urged the Obama administration to establish an independent, non-partisan "Commission of Inquiry" to investigate United States government-sponsored torture since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The group presented Obama's aides with a letter to the president signed by more than 50 religious leaders, including General Minister and President Sharon Watkins. The letter calls on the President to "uncover the whole truth about U.S. torture policies and practices."

"The reality is that our nation is now shackled to a shameful history of torture," the letter states. "As people of faith we know that only the truth can set us free. We must therefore, as a nation, be mature and honest enough to examine fully and disclose completely the wrong doing that has been committed." For more and to see the letter, see: disciplescenter.blogspot.com/2009/06/disciples-participate-in-anti-torture_12.html

DISCIPLES PASTOR SELECTED AS NEW CHAPLAIN AT LYNCHBURG COLLEGE

Stephanie McLemore has been named chaplain and director of church relations at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va. McLemore, an ordained Disciples minister, has served as the associate regional minister for the Christian Church in Virginia since January 2003. She received a bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College, and a master of divinity from the University of Chicago. McLemore also served as chaplain at Tiffin University in Ohio for two years, and as pastor and family/youth minister in two congregations in Clyde, Ohio and Hinsdale, Ill. For more, see: www.lynchburg.edu/x18269.xml

FIVE DISCIPLES INSTITUTIONS RECEIVE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY GRANTS

Five diverse projects - enhancing leadership for the church, improving campus ministry and educational services, and raising awareness of worldwide challenges - will receive special funding

from the College/University Grant fund, a program administered by Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM). Receiving College/University Grants are Barton College, Culver-Stockton College, Eureka College, Jarvis Christian College, and Texas Christian University.

Information on each project is available at:

www.helmdisciples.org/helm/09/HELM-C-Ugrants.htm

OVERSEAS PILGRIMAGES TAKE DISCIPLES TO CHINA AND HAITI

The Division of Overseas Ministries recently led a group of African-American Disciples and board members of Global Ministries on a People-to-People Pilgrimage to Haiti. Felix Ortiz-Cotto, area executive for Latin America and the Caribbean, and LaMarco Cable, program associate for education and advocacy, led the group to the Caribbean nation May 27 - June 1. The group met with several Global Ministries' partners including the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH) and the House of Hope Children's Program. Their focus was particularly on gathering facts so they can become better advocates for Haiti and to respond to the 2005 Sense of the Assembly resolution "Concerning Our Relationship to the People of Haiti and Haitians in North America."

In another overseas trip, Disciples seminarians were taken to China May 29 - June 9. The trip to Asia was led by Xiaoling Zhu, area executive for East Asia and the Pacific, and Julia Brown Karimu, mission personnel executive and Division of Overseas Ministries vice president. The seminarians used the trip to learn the importance of global mission. To learn more about the work of Global Ministries go to: globalministries.org/news/gm-update/26may2009.html

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