



The

# Tennessee Christian

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## Tennessee Congregations and Haiti Relief



A number of Tennessee Disciples congregations have done significant fund raising for Haiti Relief. Generous gifts have been given by Disciples to the Week of Compassion to help meet the needs of Haitians after the earthquake. As of March 8, over \$127,000 has been sent to Week of Compassion by Tennessee Disciples Congregation for Haiti. Many thanks for all of your generosity. Your gifts are making a significant difference in the lives of many Haitians.

In the Memphis area, members of six Disciples congregations, Bethany Christian Church, Collierville Christian Church, Graceland Christian Church, First Christian Church, Tupelo, Central Christian Church, Decatur Trinity Church and Lindenwood Christian Church, prepared more than 650 church World Service

hygiene kits and 60 Church World Service baby kits in response to the recent appeal from Week of Compassion and in support of Church World Service earthquake relief and recovery efforts in Haiti. Mike Lee of Graceland Christian Church, and Johnny Wray of Lindenwood delivered the kits to the CWS warehouse at the Ferncliff Conference Center.

In Nashville, an evening of music, silent auctions, and food was created on February 28, 2010 at Woodmont Christian Church by Trey Flowers and Heather Bond. The evening was called To Haiti with Love. Vince Gill was the featured musician of the evening. \$12,071.24 was raised for Haitian relief by those who attended the evening's event. Clay Stauffer is the Senior Minister of Woodmont Christian Church.

Many generous gifts have been given by many Tennessee Disciples to help relieve the suffering of Haitians after the earthquake.

Many thanks to all.

## Fire in Sleeping Room at Bethany Hills



On Saturday, February 20, just before noon a fire started in one of the sleeping rooms at the Bethany Hills Lodge. Camp manager David Johnson put the fire out with a fire extinguisher found on the wall at the end of the hall near the sleeping rooms. It is

believed to have started where the room heater was plugged into the wall socket in the room. No one was hurt by the fire. The room was damaged, as was the roofing material over the room. David has repaired the damage done to the room and is preparing to put a new roof on the back side of the Lodge to repair the damage done by the fire.

## Hope Hodnett Resigns, Search On

After serving as the Director of Camp and Conference for over three years, Hope Hodnett has resigned. She has done an outstanding job as Director of Camp and Conference. She will remain active in the Camp and Conference ministry.

Any person interested in serving as the Director of Camp and Conference may see the job description at the Region's website under the tab resources. To be considered a resume will need to be submitted to the Regional Minister, Glen Stewart before April 9. His address is 7980 Coley Davis Rd., #102, Nashville, TN 37221.





## Easter is Different This Year



I am not sure why, but Easter seems different this year. I know for some Easter is the celebration that Spring is finally here after a long cold winter, yes, it has been long and cold. For others, it shows how Love wins the struggle over Hate every time. We celebrate Easter every year to remind us that positive actions will overcome negative, hurtful, hateful, actions every time. For others, Easter is a symbol of Life overcoming Death. This is similar to the orthodox version of the meaning of Easter, but not quite. For me, this year, the affirmation of Christ's resurrection is more real and more affirmed for me than for a long time. A couple experiences I have had recently, helped me see the promise of Easter more than I have seen in a long time. First, an uncle of mine recently died. I was asked to lead the funeral for him. He was 92 years old when he died, his wife had died about 10 years before. He was a faithful attender of worship at his church, before he retired he worked hard for long hours, he was not afraid to die, actually he looked forward to it. It is hard for me to believe that life really ends then. My Uncle Ben so looked forward to being reunited with the wife he lost 10 years ago. He looked forward to being closer to God than he had ever before in his life. My faith tells me he is.



The other experience that has changed my outlook on Easter was going through the earthquake in Haiti, seeing the results, seeing death and destruction, and leading our group so that all returned home safe and sound even though we were very near disaster. While I do not believe God had anything to do with starting the earthquake, I felt God's presence during the whole process as we slowly made our way home after the earthquake. I have felt God's presence as I have prayed for Haiti and my friends there. Haitians are resilient people. They will work hard and will rebuild Port Au Prince and the other cities destroyed by the quake. I am not sure of all the connections, but this experience has brought to me a new experience of life, of ministry, service to others, and of Easter this year.

While I am aware of the numerous meanings Easter has for many people, the promise of life after death is renewed for me this year. I hope you have a great Easter celebration this Sunday. Sing your favorite Easter hymn loudly on Sunday. Listen as if you have never heard the story of the women finding the empty tomb before. I hope you are able to renew a portion of your faith this Sunday as you celebrate the greatest day of the year for us.

See you in Church!

*Glen*

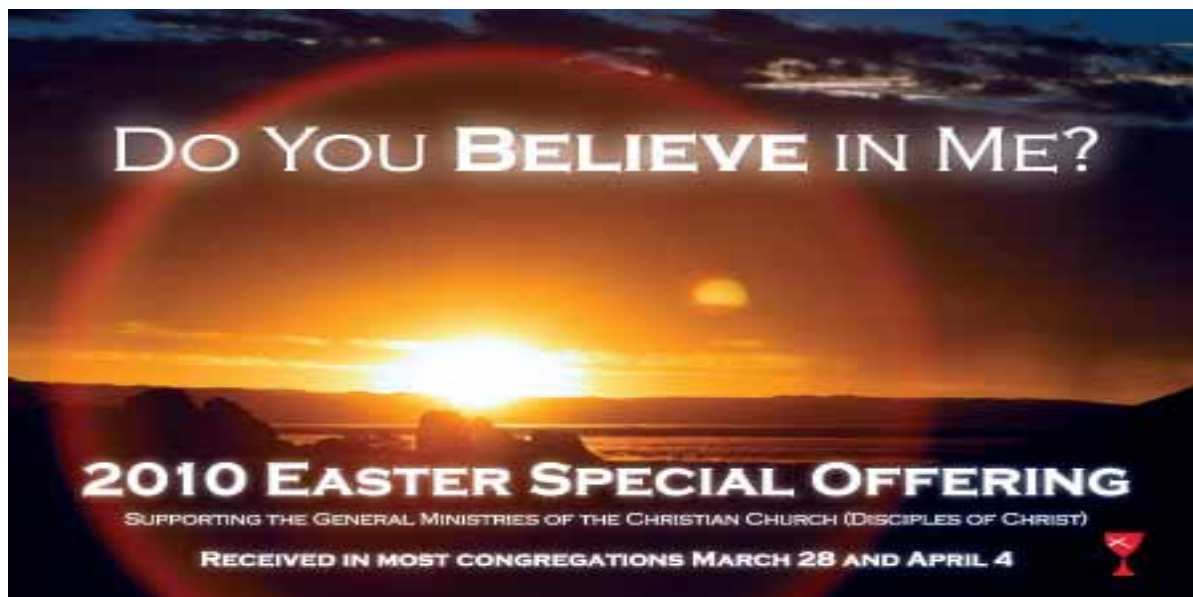
General Minister and President  
**Pastors' Conference**  
Sept. 21-23, 2010 • San Diego • [Register Online Today!](#)

Pastors should make their reservations now to attend. Dr. Diana Butler Bass promises to be inspiring and informative as she talks about the transformation of the mainline church.

Come and learn. Come and rest. Come and renew your spirit!

Register online today at [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

**Most Disciples congregations will receive an Easter Offering on March 28 and April 4. Your gift to this Easter Offering supports the ministry of the General Church.**



A teachers pep rally for the Dallas Public School System was recently featured on Oprah Winfrey. Twelve year-old student Dalton Sherman asked the teachers "Do You Believe in Me?" He was challenging the teachers to believe in him. If teachers believed in him then he told them, he could "do anything." Jesus also asks "do you believe in me?" In John 1:25-26, Jesus says to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Each day, the general and Racial/Ethnic Ministries of the Christian Church( Disciples of Christ) answer Jesus question "Do you believe in me?" through their witness to Gods good news. Your support of the 2010 Easter Offering witnesses to our belief that we can do all things through Christ Jesus who believes in us. Your support of these ministries extends our churchs witness from your doorstep to the ends of the earth. Your gift to the Easter Offering shares the message of resurrection through ...Missionaries touching lives around the globe...Ministerial relief and assistance...Stewardship education...Disciples men and Women Ministries...A fully inclusive table where we learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ....Proclaiming our identity and history as a people of Christian unity...Our shared mission as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world...Education for and learning from children and youth...Leadership development...evangelism Training...Hands on mission work...Global and domestic partnerships... **Your gift says" You believe in the power of resurrection!"** Additional resources for the Easter Offering and stories of ministries supported by the Easter Offering may be found at [www.disciplesmissionfund.org/easter](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org/easter)



## News from Tennessee Disciples Women's Ministries Cabinet

**“The most significant decision I make each day is my choice of an attitude. When my attitudes are right there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme and no challenge too great.” - Charles Swindoll**

You know how almost every day you get a story or a photo or something that one of your friends has seen on the internet and just knows that you need to see it too. The following story is one of those stories that go around. I want to share it with you because it has a lot to do with what the Tennessee Disciples Women's Ministries Cabinet members are all about. Here's the story that was written by Peter Hughes:

*As the sun rose, a dew drop became aware of its surroundings. There it sat on a leaf, catching the sunlight and throwing it back out. Proud of its simple beauty, it was very content. Around it were other dew drops, some on the same leaf and some on other leaves round about. The dew drop was sure that it was the best, the most special dew drop of them all.*

*Ah, it was good to be a dew drop.*

*The wind rose and the plant began to shake, tipping the leaf. Terror gripped the dew drop as gravity pulled it towards the edge of the leaf, towards the unknown. Why? Why was this happening? Things were comfortable. Things were safe. Why did they have to change? Why? Why?*

*The dew drop reached the edge of the leaf. It was terrified, certain that it would be smashed into a thousand pieces below, sure that this was the end. The day had only just begun and down it fell. Below there seemed to be a mirror. A reflection of itself seemed to be coming up to meet the dew drop. Closer and closer they came together until finally...*

*And then the fear transformed into deep joy as the tiny dew drop merged with the vastness that was the pond. Now the dew drop was no more, but it was not destroyed.*

*It had become one with the whole.*

And so it goes with your TDWM Cabinet members. We are there standing on the brink hoping against hope that we will be doing the right things at the right time for all our sisters in the Tennessee Region. But once we each begin our individual journeys on the Cabinet—like the dew drop—and settle into one body – the TDWM Cabinet – we realize that we are all working toward the same end...doing the right thing at the right time for our sisters!

Our last Cabinet meeting was in February 2010 at Bethany Hills. We had a little drama at this Cabinet meeting that had never happened before—the Lodge had an electrical short in one of the room heaters and a fire started! Luckily, and with God's good grace, we were there and one of our sharp-eyed Cabinet members spotted the smoke before much damage occurred and it ended with no injuries, little damage to one of the rooms and a lot of excitement for we women on the Cabinet and David the Camp Manager. It was fortunate that all the happenings occurred as they did...there evidently was a bigger hand in all of that than just we women, David, and the fire department. Thank God for all He does for us in our every day lives!

During this meeting of the TDWM Cabinet, we worked on plans for all the Area Spiritual Journeys, the Fall Retreat, and the Silent Retreat. We heard a little bit about her trip from Barbara Bekaert who went on the Woman-to-Woman mission trip to Columbia and Venezuela last fall. We talked about attending QA 2010 in Greensboro this summer.

I hope that many of you are planning to attend QA 2010. Don't forget that registration is only \$375 through the end of this month! I hope you have been saving your pennies and nickels so that you can be there to worship with the many, many women who are attending from around the world. It promises to be a great Quadrennial.

Please let any of the Cabinet members know what we can do for your women's programs, for your women in your churches, and for any of you. We are there as members of the Cabinet to serve God as we serve you—the women of Tennessee Region. Let us know what you would have us do...and we will do it. Thanks to all of you for your support of the Tennessee Region through your contributions and your service.

God's blessings on your life,



**Whether it's praise, love, criticism, money, time, power, punishment, space, sorrow, laughter, need, pain, or pleasure... the more of it that you give, the more of it you will receive.” Mike Dooley, Author of *Infinite Possibilities***





## **MAKE GOOD** Capital Campaign to Congregations in April and May

We are now preparing to launch the congregational phase of our Regional Capital Campaign, *Make Good*. To be successful, we need the participation of all congregations in seeking over and above pledges. The Capital Campaign is seeking over and above pledges for a **three year** period. Congregations will be asked to do regional capital campaigns at a time other than when their operating budgets are underwritten.

To help inform persons about the *Make Good* Capital Campaign, there will be a series of cluster meetings for congregational leaders. We suggest that each congregation be represented by the Minister(s) and at least four to five key laypersons. The schedule is:

April 26, 7:00 p.m., at Vine St. Christian Ch., Nashville

April 27, 7:00 p.m., at Eastwood Christian Ch., Nashville

April 28, 7:00 p.m. at Lindenwood Christian Ch., Memphis

April 29, 7:00 p.m., at First Christian Ch., Alamo

May 3, 7:00 p.m., at First Christian Ch., Chattanooga

May 4, 7:00 p.m., at First Christian Ch., Oak Ridge (\* Note: This is 7:00 p.m. Eastern time; and, 6:00 p.m. Central time)

May 5, 5:30 p.m., at Bethel Christian Ch., Jonesborough

May 5, 7:30 p.m., at Hasson St. Christian Church, Rogersville

At the cluster meeting, a leadership team will present and discuss all aspects of the campaign, including how to conduct a congregational campaign. Suggested goals will be discussed and distributed. The Capital Campaign Committee will answer any questions about the congregational phase of the campaign. In the weeks following the cluster meetings, we would like to meet with each church board. Enthusiasm is building for *Make Good* Capital Campaign. We need your support and leadership for this important effort.

If you have any questions about the Capital Campaign, you may contact Sharman Hartson or Glen Stewart.



### **Email Addresses**

Like most of Society, nearly everything is being done on a computer. Newspapers are going out of business, because people are reading the news online. The United States Postal Service is running out of money because people communicate completely with email now. The Christian Church in Tennessee is starting to do all of its communicating with Tennessee Disciples online especially through email. But in order to communicate best, the Christian Church in Tennessee needs everyone's email address. The Christian Church in Tennessee does great ministry and partners with congregations to do great ministry. In order to share this ministry with everyone, your email address is needed. Would you please share your email addresses with the Christian Church in Tennessee. The Christian Church in Tennessee will not give or sell your email address to anyone. Thanks for your help.

## **2010 Ministry School**



Each year the Christian Church in Kentucky sponsors Ministry School. The purpose of the Ministry School is to equip leaders to serve the church and provide Licensed/Commissioned Ministers a forum for support. The school also enables Licensed/Commissioned Ministers to meet Regional requirements for continuing education. During the week long experience, the participants will receive 25 hours on instruction in one course. The 2010 Ministry School will be held at Lexington Theological Seminary. Tuition is \$125. Lodging and meals are an additional cost. Class size is limited to 25. Three courses are being offered: "Worship: A People of Word and Table", "The Christian Canon", and "A People of the Table". For more information contact Glen Stewart at 615-646-3267, or Lon Oliver at lon@ccinky.net.



## Emily Nourse Ordination

Emily Nourse, a graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School, was ordained to Christian ministry on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at Eastwood Christian Church where she is a member. Amy Cates was guest preacher.



## Congratulations to Billy and Cara Doidge-Kilgore



Billy Kilgore, Associate minister of First Christian church, Chattanooga and the former Cara Doidge of Vine Street Christian Church, Nashville wed on March 20, 2010. Billy was recently ordained on February 7, 2010. Congratulations to the Newlyweds!

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN TENNESSEE

### Calendar -2010

#### April

- 2 Regional Office Closed- Good Friday
- 3 Easter Sunday
- 9-11 Chi-Rho Retreat- Bethany Hills
- 22 Executive Committee
- 27 Commission on Ministry Meeting

#### May

- 25 Commission on Ministry
- 29- 31 iCamp- Bethany Hills

#### June

- 5-11 CYF Camp- Bethany Hills
- 13-18 Chi-Rho Camp- Bethany Hills

#### July

- 6-10 Junior Camp- Bethany Hills
- 11-17 8'ers Camp- Bethany Hills
- 18-21 Discovery Camp- Bethany Hills
- 22-24 Firsters Camp- Bethany Hills
- 25-28 Hope Camp- Bethany Hills



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