



The

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Embracing Change, Our Regional Assembly theme

October 22, 23, & 24, 2010 are the dates for our next Regional Assembly. Woodmont Christian Church, Nashville, is the place for the Assembly. Embracing Change is the theme. Our special speakers are: Dick Hamm, former Tennessee Regional Minister and General Minister and President; Denise Bell, minister serving Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church and Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Important study groups will be available, great worship to lift our lives, and all 18,000 Tennessee Disciples will be featured. YOU are needed to make the Assembly complete. Plan to participate in our next Regional Assembly.



Capital Campaign – “MAKE GOOD”

The Christian Church in Tennessee celebrates the ministry and mission of each congregation in the region. From Memphis to Nashville to Chattanooga to Jonesborough, and all cities along the way, Disciples of Christ churches respond to God's call to be a faithful and caring people. In Tennessee, we worship together and celebrate our diversity. We worship together at Regional Assembly and district events. We enjoy the fellowship of brothers and sisters when we retreat for a few days at Bethany Hills Camp. We come together, as the Body of Christ, to further the mission of God's church in the world.

The theme for the Capital Campaign is “Make Good,” coming from the story of Jonah. In Jonah 2:9 (NIV), Jonah cries out, “... I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed, I will make good.” As a regional church, together, we have identified ministry needs that are “above and beyond” the capacity of the annual operational budget. Our three main ministry goals for this fundraising effort are: 1) Bethany Hills Camp, 2) establishing 2-3 new congregations in our region, and 3) revitalizing ministries in congregations. And, there are seven ministries beyond the region that also have capital needs, including: Christmount, Disciples Divinity House, Heartbeats of Faith of the Pension Fund, National Convocation of the CC (DOC), National City Christian Church's Bunkhouse Ministry, and CONASPEH of Haiti.

The Capital Campaign begins the second phase of the fundraising. Committee members are meeting with Major and Leadership Gift prospects in the coming weeks. Also, our pastors will be asked to participate in a “Celebration of Preaching.” Using the Jonah text, pastors are asked to contribute a sermon that they have preached to interpret the theme and inspire our churches to give to the regional capital campaign.



Week of Compassion Special Offering

The Week of Compassion Special Offering is scheduled for February 21-28. It is because of your generosity that we are able to respond in immediate, effective and faithful ways to so much human need all over the world. And it is because of YOU that we are able to engage in this important ministry of compassion. We are sharing resources and changing lives. Praise be to God!



Haiti Mission Trip

The Haiti Mission Trip was sponsored by the Christian Church in Tennessee began as most of the previous mission trips to Haiti started. The Mission Team visited with the leaders of CONASPEH, our mission partner in Haiti, we visited with our Disciples Missionaries in Port-Au-Prince, and we visited a couple orphanages. But this trip ended very differently than previous mission trips. On Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at about 4:50p.m. the earthquake struck Haiti and devastated the whole country. You know what happened because it has been in the news. The guesthouse the Mission Team was staying in collapsed during the quake so they slept under the stars the night of the earthquake. The next day the team went to the American Embassy in Port-Au-Prince to be evacuated out of the country. After staying at the Embassy about 24 hours the team was flown out of the country by the United States Coast Guard to Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. After about 20 hours in Santo Domingo all were flown to Miami to continue our trip home arriving home 24 hours later than expected. All members of the team came home physically unhurt. No one on our team was hurt in the earthquake, but experiencing the quake, seeing the destruction was difficult for all.

Disciples Overseas Ministries and Haiti

Reverend Felix Ortiz, Vice President for Latin America/Caribbean for Global Ministries was the First Disciples General Staff person to visit Haiti since the January 12, 2010 earthquake. During his visit he was able to observe the effects of the disaster, visit with one of our ministry partners in Haiti, CONASPEH, and lead a presentation to others in the Disciples Center in Indianapolis by telephone. Felix presented Patrick Villier with an initial check for CONASPEH. Although the six story CONASPEH office building was totally destroyed during the earthquake, CONASPEH has not been destroyed. About 2,500 member congregations of CONASPEH were effected by the earthquake including 128 congregations in Cite de Soliel. Felix is planning a second visit to Haiti during the second week of February. To learn more about the ministry of the Disciples of Haiti participate in a webinar on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 at 4p.m. for details. <http://globalministries.org/news/webinar>



Tax Relief on Gifts for the Emergency in Haiti

The Haiti assistance Income Tax Relief Act allows U.S. taxpayers making contributions for the relief of Haitian earthquake victims to choose to deduct contributions from either 2009 or 2010 federal taxes. Contributions must have been made after January 11, 2010 and before March 1, 2010.

The Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Executive Committee will be on Monday, February 22, 2010 starting at 10:00a.m. The Committee will meet at the Regional Center for Ministry, 7980 Coley Davis Rd. Ste#102, Nashville.



Stewardship Note:



Recovery from addiction is guided by spiritual principles designed to bring healing to shattered lives. Early in the recovery process, a sponsor (one who has gone before and knows the power of recovery) will ask a novice to engage in a gratitude inventory. Recovery wisdom assures the newcomer that if they are aware of the things in life for which they are grateful, they are free to move from the spiritual trappings of fear and resentment toward a spiritual peace rooted in faith and gratitude.

Faithful stewardship follows this same path. Giving out of resentment or fear does not free us to recognize God's presence in our lives- it becomes mechanical and empty. When we first inventory the ways God has blessed us, giving is transformed into joyful spiritual experience and an act of faith.

The Christian Church in Tennessee has much to be thankful for this month:

- We are thankful the ground did not move under our feet and bring our houses down upon our families. When Tennessee Disciples were in Haiti at the moment of crisis, their commitment was renewed to return to Haiti with God's love at a time when their unique skills could serve God's purpose best.
- We are thankful for the church's infrastructure, allowing us to respond with gifts knowing they will be used with stewardship and knowledge. Week of Compassion is active around the world every day, through which we are God's hands in the world.
- We are thankful for the Region's response when a congregation in crisis calls for direction and insight. Or when a pastor calls because he or she needs a pastor to walk through the dark night with them.

When we start with gratitude, the spiritual discipline of giving is an act of generosity. To write a check is to express our faith and experience the joy of God's presence.

We are called to bring healing to our shattered world through our actions, time, talents, and resources. May we do so from the place of spiritual gratitude so that all may be blessed in the giving.

Shalom.

Mary K. "Kaki" Friskics-Warren is chair of the Stewardship committee. She is ordained and currently serves as Executive Director of the Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund.



Our sympathy goes out to the family of Mildred Wherry who died on February 5, 2010. Mildred served the Christian Church in Tennessee for 16yrs. as the Region's bookkeeper. Mildred was 93 at the time of her death. We give thanks to God for her service to the Christian Church in Tennessee.

The Devastation in Haiti

As many of you know, The Mission Team sponsored by the Christian Church in Tennessee was in Haiti when the earthquake strongly shook the earth beneath our feet. I think God guided our feet so all eleven of us would be in a safe place when it happened. The grocery store we were in seconds before the quake collapsed. Our guesthouse, where we were on our way to for dinner, also collapsed before we got there. Five people died when the guesthouse collapsed. All of us were safe to observe the chaos moments after the earthquake and to witness for ourselves the complete destruction the earthquake caused for all. One of the reasons I take people to Haiti is to see first hand the poverty in Haiti and see what we Disciples are doing in Haiti with the missionaries we support and the organizations we support to make a difference in a country that has very little going for it. The eleven of us got to experience, first hand, a catastrophe. We did not eat for over 2 1/2 days, water was scarce during that time. We lost all we had taken with us in Haiti because our guesthouse collapsed on our suitcases. But unlike Haitians, we got to come home within a couple of days of the earthquake. The eleven of us got to experience the poverty of the country. Meeting our Disciples missionaries in Haiti was a highlight of the trip. (You can read their blog www.kimandpatrick.blogspot.com)



We heard the purposes and plans of CONASPEH, a council of small poor congregations that we Disciples support, and we heard how the ministry that we Disciples do in Haiti is very different from the ministry of many other faith traditions. All eleven of us came home different people, different in part because we saw how we Disciples are doing ministry in Haiti and we participated in that ministry just a little. Our gifts to the Tennessee Disciples Mission Fund supports our ministry in Haiti. Your gifts to the Region's Capital Campaign has a significant percentage going to Haiti to help CONASPEH's capital needs. You are participating in the ministry we Disciples have in Haiti. From reading the scriptures we know that everyone who met Jesus had their lives changed. Just ask Zachaeus. We got to spend a small amount of time with people of great faith.

While the day will come that we Volunteers will be able to go to Haiti and help rebuild the country, today our financial gifts are needed badly. Few of us have the unique gifts needed to serve Haiti today. So, the best thing to do is to be generous with our gifts to the Week of Compassion, marking each for Haiti Relief. Thank you for all of those gifts.

See you in church.....

Glen

2010 QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY
a gathering of Disciples Women
GREENSBORO, NC JUNE 23 – 27, 2010



AWAKE! AWAKE! – Judges 5:12a

Thousands of Women worshipping and learning together!! You want to be There!!

Disciple Women from all over the USA have been dreaming of this Assembly for 3 plus years and now the time is almost here. As of Feb. 22, there will be **120 days** until it begins. That gives you enough time to save money and register. All of the details are on www.quadrennial.org so check it out or ask your DWM President or contact Darlene at dajb11@bellsouth.net. (615-893-5182)

Men are invited. Dick Hamm, Former General Minister and President will be leading Men's discussion at QA. Wives, encourage your husbands to bring you. Stop at Christmount to spend the night or just to rest for a while. "Speakers who will headline the event include Vashti McKenzie, Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; retired attorney and Disciples leader Joanne Kagiwada; Disciples pastor Evelyn Nieves; Executive Director for Week of Compassion Amy C. Gopp; General Minister and President Sharon Watkins; and Sharyn Dowd, pastor for spiritual formation and mission engagement at First Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga. Mission outreach will include opportunities to make or donate blankets, and participate in a blood drive. Assembly goers also will collect books and purses for a local women's shelter, as well as prepare Church World Service hygiene kits that will be used to replenish the supplies depleted by the earthquake in Haiti."

(copied from Disciples News Service)

HYGIENE KITS:

One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)

One washcloth, One wide-tooth comb,

One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)

One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)

One toothbrush (in original packaging)

Six band-aids, \$2.00 processing per kit.

Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

Our goal for TN is 110 in 2010. So far 22 have registered with 20 more in the process.

SEE YOU THERE !!

Submitted by Kathy Jeffries & Darlene Bowman, QA Coordinators.



TDMF Leaders

Six Tennessee Disciples Congregations were among the top 250 congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in giving to the Tennessee Disciples Mission Fund. Gifts to the Tennessee Disciples Mission Fund support the Christian Church in Tennessee, the Historical Society, the Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt and all higher education institutions, Overseas Ministries and many other organizations related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Three of those congregations, Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, First Christian Church, Shelbyville, and First Christian Church, Livingston were among the top 100 congregations in giving to TDMF. The other three congregations, Decatur-Trinity Christian Church, Memphis; Vine Street Christian Church, Nashville; and First Christian Church, Tullahoma were among the top 250 congregations in giving to the Tennessee Disciples Mission Fund.

Many Thanks to you. Thanks for your generous giving!

Ordination of Shelia Easterling-Smith

During morning worship at Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church on Sunday, January 17, Shelia Easterling-Smith was ordained. A recent graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary, she was approved for ordination by the Region's Commission on Ministry. Dr. Stewart, Regional Minister participated in the ordination along with Frank Thomas, Senior Minister of MBCC, and other ministers and elders of MBCC. Congratulations to Shelia Easterling-Smith!



Dr. Stewart with Shelia & Larry Easterling-Smith



Cara Doidge, Billy Kilgore, Kara Foster

Billy Kilgore is Ordained

Congratulations to Billy Kilgore upon his ordination to Christian Ministry on Sunday, February 7, 2010 at First Christian Church, Chattanooga. Kara Foster, pastor of First Christian Church, Rockwood, preached. Dr. Stewart asked Billy to make his promises and led the laying on of hands as a part of the service. Billy is a native of Chattanooga, a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Emory University where he received his M.Div. Billy is engaged to be married to Cara Doidge.

2010 Quadrennial Assembly

I just recently returned from the International Disciples Women Ministries staff fellowship meeting in Greensboro, NC where we began the countdown to Quadrennial Assembly 2010... "Awake! Awake!" This year the event will take place at the Sheraton Four Seasons. I can assure you food is delicious, the staff is wonderful, and the rooms are comfortable. As great as all that is, it is the event itself which draws Disciples Women from all over the globe. Quadrennial events have been life changing for many throughout the years starting in 1957. They have certainly been life enriching for all who have attended. If you have never been or if you have attended all of the Quadrennial Events, now is the time to register. Check out the details at discipleswomen.org. you can register online, sign up for workshops, and make hotel reservations all at the same time. There are programs for children of all ages and even plans for excursions for husbands. Golf courses abound in the Greensboro area. Don't miss out on this spiritual experience- you will be blessed. There is now a facebook page for Disciples Women of Middle Tennessee. Check it out!

Alicia Burton



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CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN TENNESSEE

Calendar -2010

February

18th -Reconciliation Meeting
22nd-Executive Committee Meeting
23rd- Commission on Ministry Meeting- Memphis
26th-28th CYF Spring Fling Retreat

March

1st- Commission on Assembly-Woodmont CC
23rd Commission on Ministry Meeting

April

9th-11th Chi-Rho Spring Retreat
27th - Commission on Ministry

May

22-24- Commission on Assembly-Woodmont Christian
Church