



# MESSENGER

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Mid-America Messenger

January 2015

## THE HOPE OF TRANSFORMATION

*We rejoice in God,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in God's covenant of love  
which binds us to God and to one another.  
Through baptism into Christ  
we enter into newness of life  
and are made one with the whole people of God.  
In the communion of the Holy Spirit  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.*

*From the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

Bound to God and to one another. Made one with the whole people of God. Joined together in discipleship.

One of the greatest blessings in my own life was to realize that connecting is both a precious opportunity and a sacred responsibility. Relationships matter. My congregation matters. The partnerships we have as Disciples and as neighbors and co-workers and citizens matter.

[Read more](#)

*As we continue to anticipate  
the possibilities associated with  
the proposed Christian Church  
of Mid-America restructure,  
Northwest Area Minister Bill  
Rose-Heim shares his thoughts,  
prayers, and hopes.*

### Inside this issue:

Mission Activity	2
Education Information	3
Get Involved!	4
Mid-America Updates	5
Our Wider Church	6
Other Happenings	7

## ASSEMBLY REVIEW



It's hard to believe that the regional assembly was already three months ago!

Thank you to the Southeast Gateway Area for planning and facilitating such a wonderful event.

Special thanks to the planning team leader, CCMA First Vice-Moderator Norma Ellington-Twitty, PhD.

Countless people including the entire planning team, our speakers, workshop leaders, and members of our host churches Webster Groves CC and Union Avenue CC made this event possible and we are grateful.

Find a recap of all the activity [here](#).

**Make sure our one-day Assembly  
October 24, 2015 is on your calendar!**

**The next Messenger  
will be published in  
April.**

Please [share](#)  
information from  
your congregation by  
March 31st.

- programs
- mission projects
- photos
- news
- announcements



MISSION ACTIVITY

# BROADWAY CC HOSTS ROOM AT THE INN

From December 11 to January 10, [Broadway Christian Church](#) hosted Room at the Inn, an organization designed to shelter the homeless during the winter months when other local shelters are sometimes full to capacity.

This was the first year that space was available on Christmas Eve and the 20 guests were treated to food, movies, and even gift bags provided by the church's Christian Women's Fellowship.

It takes many volunteers giving their time to plan, staff, cook, and clean but definitely worth the effort as the



photo by Columbia Daily Tribune's Daniel Brenner

congregation keeps serving the homeless population part of its mission focus.

The overnight accommodations have now moved on to another local church but the program will continue to run until March.

Find more information [here](#) and [here](#).



[Learn more about volunteering opportunities here.](#)



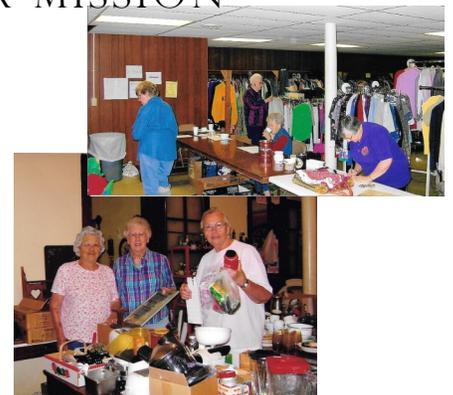
# WARRENSBURG CWF RAISING FUNDS FOR MISSION

[First Christian Church in Warrensburg](#) has been bustling with activity thanks to the Christian Women's Fellowship and their quest to fund their mission budget.



Two major fundraisers are the annual rummage sale and ham and bean dinner. The dinner itself brings in about \$2,000 which helps the group support their congregation and their community.

photos courtesy of Donna Elliott



# FCC HARRISONVILLE SUPPORTS BRITE FUTURES

Through the Brite Futures program in Harrisonville, [FCC](#) is making a difference in the lives of local public school students.



Members have donated snacks, juice boxes, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, underwear, and books to the program and have made both students and teachers a focus of prayer. They are now planning to write notes of encouragement to the students of the middle school.

The idea behind the program is to foster a sense of community and partnership in the education of the next generation.

[Learn more here.](#)


 EDUCATION INFORMATION

## ASSOCIATION OF DISCIPLES MUSICIANS CONFERENCE IN JUNE

This year's conference will be held at William-Jewell College in Liberty, MO June 23-28.

Workshops will include:

- Organ techniques & master class
- Organ improvisation
- Creating new worship settings
- Powerful worship experiences
- Choral conducting
- Beginning & advanced handbell techniques
- Choral techniques
- Piano jazz & contemporary styles
- Organ master class

Learn more [here](#).



2014 *Clergy continuing education report forms* due Jan. 31st.

### HELM Fellows Applications due April 16th

Now entering its 14th year, the Disciples Higher Education Leadership Ministries Leadership Fellows Program has been redesigned to respond to the rapidly changing context for Christian leadership. Leadership Fellows will now be given the opportunity to engage directly the ministry of emerging and renewing local Christian communities across North America with the guidance of expert coaches and mentors.

Find more information, including the application [here](#).

Two of the 23 current HELM Fellows are from Mid-America. Read about their experience in the program [here](#).



## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY / INTERIM TRAINING

The Leadership Academy is a week-long learning experience for leaders in both new congregations and transforming congregations, as well as social entrepreneurs of faith (new this year)—those starting faith-based health and social service enterprises.

The purpose of the event is to inspire, teach and encourage people as they lead courageously in their local setting. The event is open to both clergy and lay leaders of Disciples congregations. A full program of interim ministry training will also be available.



February 23-27

Marten House Hotel and Conference Center, Indianapolis, IN

Find more details and registration information [here](#).

## UPCOMING BOUNDARY TRAINING

Disciples active clergy must renew their boundary training every five years. Upcoming opportunities include:

- Fri. 2/6, 9-3, Eden Theological Seminary. \$50. Contact [Chris Davis](#) to register.
- Sat. 3/21, 9-3, Central CC Springfield. \$65 (includes lunch). Contact [Mid-America Center for Ministry](#) for more information.

## ...ALSO AT MID-AMERICA CENTER FOR MINISTRY



The elders of your congregation can get the [training](#) they need to be faithful and effective in their role as spiritual leaders.

Complete a [survey](#) regarding lay leadership and issues of interest to lay leaders. This will help as the Center expands its leadership training opportunities.



GET INVOLVED!

## INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

Disciples Home Missions, the National Benevolent Association XPLOR program, and Disciples Peace Fellowship all have opportunities available for young adults.



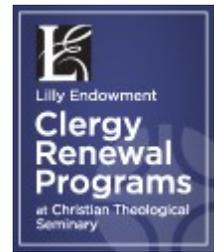
[Disciples Home Missions](#) applications due February 5th.

[NBA XPLOR](#) program applications due February 8th.



[Disciples Peace Fellowship](#) applications due February 13th.

[Global Ministries](#) seminarian summer internship applications due March 31st.



## Apply for a Lilly Grant

The Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at [Christian Theological Seminary](#) provide funds to congregations to support renewal leaves for their pastors.

Congregations may apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to underwrite a renewal program for their pastor and for the pastor's family.

Applications due April 15th. [Learn more.](#)

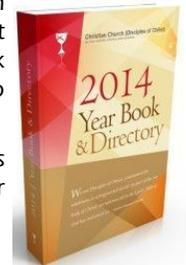
## FOR THE RECORD...

Yearbook and Directory report forms have been distributed throughout Mid-America. These reports are important as they are the means by which a current and accurate listing of all Disciples congregations is maintained.

The reports can be completed via the paper forms or online [here](#).

Please take the time to report your congregation's information before March 15th so that your listing in the Yearbook and Directory stays up to date.

Please [email](#) any questions you may have about your church's report.



## GETTING READY FOR SUMMER CAMP!

It's only January but plans are underway for a wonderful summer camping program across the region! Watch for more information [here!](#)

In the Northwest Area programs at Crowder State Park:

- ChiRho 1—June 30-July 4
  - CYF—July 6-11
  - 123 Go—July 12-14
  - Junior—July 15-19
  - ChiRho 2—July 20-24
- The Southeast Gateway Area will hold its intergenerational program at Camp MoVal June 16-20.

The Northeast/Ozark Lakes programs at Rickman Center:

- Mid-America Young Adult Retreat—May 22-25
  - CYF Conference—June 7-12
  - Elementary 1 Camp—June 16-18
  - Try-It Camp—June 19-21 Rickman
  - Junior 1 Camp—June 23-27
  - MAD (Music, Art & Drama) - July 6-11
  - Chi Rho Camp—July 13-18 Rickman
  - 2/Junior 2 Combo Camp—July 20-24
  - That Camp About God & Sex July 27-August 1 Rickman
- There will also be a ChiRho canoe trip on the Current River. Dates to be announced.
- The Christian Regional Youth (CRY) Festival will be July 13-16 at Columbia College.

Find comfort and inspiration in a [daily peace prayer](#) brought to you by



DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP

Visit us online at [www.mid-americadisciples.org](http://www.mid-americadisciples.org)

IF YOU HAVEN'T GONE GREEN YET, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!





## TWO MID-AMERICANS RECEIVE AWARDS

### MID-AMERICA CENTER FOR MINISTRY RURAL CHURCH AWARD

The [Mid-America Center for Ministry](#) awarded its 2014 Rural Church Award to [First Christian Church in Kennett](#). In their announcement of the honor, the Center noted that First Christian has an active Christian education program to nurture the faith of all ages. The congregation is also active in several community organizations, including Helping Hand (food pantry), the Community Garden, Virgie's Place, and the Delta Children's Home. Through volunteers, board members and monetary support, the congregation strives to help those in need in the community.



The award was presented at the annual dinner in November.

Pictured from left to right are Southeast Gateway Area Minister Rev. Dr. Penny Ross-Corona, Staci Cripe, Rev. Dr. Doug Cripe, FCC Board Chair Rick Carver.

The Department of Sociology at Iowa State University honored [Woodhaven](#) CEO C. Mark Palmer with its 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award. The award was established to recognize outstanding professional achievements by a distinguished alumnus.



[Read more.](#)

The Jefferson City Branch of the NAACP honored Jim Gearhart with the Lifetime Service Award, recognizing him for a lifetime career dedicated to the cause of justice, opportunity and civil rights for all people. Jim will also be honored at reception for his retirement from [Community CC](#) on January 31.

### OZARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 175 YEARS

On May 3, 2015 [Ozark Christian Church](#) will be celebrating 175 years of ministry! The service will feature remembrances, recognitions and special music. They will also have a celebratory lunch after the service for all in attendance. They will be displaying pictures and memorabilia from the life of the church. The Bell Tower Chapel will also be open for attendees to tour and reminisce.

All are welcome!



### ART GALLERY SUPPORTS MISSION

The Art Gallery within [Webster Groves Christian Church](#) is currently running a show entitled "Who Is My Neighbor?" It is an exhibition of the photography of St. Louis Post-Dispatch photographer Jim Forbes. His work has taken him all over the world, including to Haiti where some of the featured images were captured.

To tie in the congregation's mission relationship with [Global Ministries](#) partner [CONASPEH](#) in Haiti, visitors sponsored photos, donating funds to support their ministry.

A previous exhibit featured the work of artist [Betty LaDuke](#), whose book *Dreaming Cows* celebrates the work of [Heifer International](#), to whom all raised funds were sent.

## RESPONDING TO THE CALL

by Bill Rose-Heim

It happens with more regularity. Disciples who are in otherwise secure, meaningful, gainful employment learn to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit and to follow, even if that means taking on new missions and ministries at great cost. Annetta Heckman, fifteen year member and volunteer in [Wyatt Park Christian Church's](#) nursery, children and youth ministries announced that she has surrendered to the call to move to the Philippines and do full-time mission work there. She will work with the ministry [Fruitful Harvest in Surigao City](#) which is at the northern tip of the island of Mindanao. Annetta has made 13 short-term mission trips to the Philippines. She has sold her home in Savannah and is resigning from her job with a local eye clinic. She expects to leave for the Philippines sometime around March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Wyatt Park Christian Church supports missions in India, Jamaica, Zambia and the Philippines, regularly organizes mission trips in the U.S. and abroad, and, has prepared several people over the past few years to answer calls to ministry and mission work.

Photo: Pastor Scott Killgore (left) interviews Annetta Heckman during worship where she explains how God has called her to make a life-changing move for the sake of the Gospel.





# BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT MARCH 3-5

**SAVE the DATE**  
 March 3-5, 2015  
 41st Annual Black Ministers Retreat  
 First Christian Church · Montgomery, Alabama

Join us for fellowship, dynamic preaching, continuing education, and meaningful workshops on ministry.  
[www.discipleshomemissions.org/black-ministers-retreat](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/black-ministers-retreat)

Registration deadlines are approaching for this event taking place in Montgomery, Alabama.

February 2 is the last day to register a group.

February 20 is the last day to register as an individual.

Find more information [here](#).

# NEW TAX RULES FOR HEATH CARE REIMBURSEMENT



**Pension Fund**  
of the Christian Church  
*strong. smart. secure.*

[Learn more](#) about the implications that these changes may have for your congregation and staff.

## THE SQUARE ROOT OF GOD

The newest book by [Broadway CC](#) Senior Minister Tim Carson, *The Square Root of God: Mathematical Metaphors and Spiritual Tangents*, is now available.

Learn more [here](#).

**Chautauqua**  
INSTITUTION

[2015 NEW CLERGY CONFERENCE](#)

# COMING THROUGH CHALICE PRESS

## FAITH AND FERGUSON

New book from **Dr. Leah Gunning Francis**

Available July 2015



Find more resources regarding Ferguson and other Reconciliation Ministries issues on their website [here](#).

# Have you registered yet?

Nominations for Moderator Team and General Board are now being accepted. [Learn more here.](#)

2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# SOAR!

Discount through April 1st!

VOLEZ! ¡¡ELÉVATE! | 솟아오르라

July 18-22, 2015 Columbus, Ohio

## OTHER HAPPENINGS



### WEEK OF COMPASSION

Week of Compassion has called the Rev. Mary Jacobs as Interim Resource Development Director. They have also appointed the Rev. Dawn Barnes to a new position as Transitional Program Associate.

Read more [here](#).



*Click [here](#) to learn about what four Springfield churches have planned to support Week of Compassion!*

### NEW NBA STAFF



The National Benevolent Association is happy to have their newest staff member on board as of January 1st. Rev. Monica Wedlock Kilpatrick has been called to serve at the Disciples Care Exchange & Affinity Group Director.

Learn more about Kilpatrick and this NBA/DHM program [here](#).

### Pastors in new places

In the Northwest Area:

George Morey—Pastor, FCC Albany  
Michael Falgout—Associate Pastor, FCC Lathrop  
Terry Robison—FCC Burlington Junction

In the Northeast Area:

Mark Tisch—Sr. Minister, Central CC, Moberly  
Beau Underwood—FCC Jefferson City

In the Ozark Lakes Area:

Jim Hollis – Sr. Minister, FCC Butler  
John Wrench – Interim Minister, CCC Camdenton  
Marshall Larson – St. Minister, FCC Gainesville  
Rick Butler – Interim Minister, FCC Harrisonville  
Mike Ackerman – Interim Minister, FCC Joplin  
Micki Pulleyking – Interim Minister, Nixa CC  
Tommy Goode – Interim Minister, Ozark CC  
Lee Young – Sr. Minister, FCC Republic  
David Mills – Sr. Minister, FCC Windsor

In the Southeast Gateway Area:

Lari Grubbs—Pastor, FCC Festus

### NEW SUMMER MINISTRIES COORDINATORS IN NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST AREAS

[Regina Rhodes](#), a registered respiratory therapist, mother of two teenagers, and active member of FCC Lathrop, will join [Sara White](#) (FCC Maryville) as a Co-Coordinator of the NW Area Summer Church Camp program. Among Regina's strengths is coordinating events, planning, and public relations. Raised in Mississippi, she and her husband David live on a farm in Lathrop.



Rev. Zane Whorton is the new Northeast Area Coordinator of Summer Ministries. Zane is the Senior Minister of the Jacksonville/Cairo Unity congregations and has been serving as the Chair of the NEOLA Outdoor Ministries Team. You can contact Zane by email at [zane@nearea.org](mailto:zane@nearea.org) and by phone at 573-442-5815.

### IN MEMORY OF JIM MERRELL

Rev. Dr. James Merrell passed away on January 19th. He served in ministry for 63 years and was known and loved by many



In addition to congregational ministry, he worked with the Christian Board of Publication publishing The Disciple Magazine.

Funeral services will be at Affton Christian Church on Friday, January 30th. Read the full obituary [here](#).