At least two persons in each congregation, the Minister and Board Chairperson, and perhaps others, receive this Packet. Please review this material carefully to determine how it needs to be shared most appropriately within your congregation.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| Table of Contents | Gray | Regional Officers and Regional Staff | Orchid | Items of Interest | White | Regional Prayer Calendar (September - November) | Canary | Reconciliation Ministry Promotional Flyer | Pink | Reconciliation Grant Application | White | Congregational Giving Report (through July, 2014) | Tan | Grant Application - Watson Memorial Scholarship Fund (deadline is September 30) | White | Young Adult Beach Retreat Flyer/Registration Form | Lilac | 2014 Senior Adult Retreat Flyer | Buff | 2014 Senior Adult Retreat Registration Form | White | Family Camp Flyer (2015) | Ivory | CWF/Disciples Women Update | (Salmon) | Letter from CWF/Disciples Women’s Cabinet | White | Women’s Retreat Flyer | (Salmon) | Women’s Retreat Registration Form | White | Parish Paper | (Cherry) | September | (Turquoise) | October |

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
(205) 425-5245
(205) 425-5246 (fax)
e-mail: alnwfl@aol.com
website: www.alnwfldisciples.org

Regional Officers and Regional Staff
May, 2014

Moderator: Jan Pooley
2805 Jerry Pate Court
Shalimar, FL 32579
850-651-5124 (h) 850-585-3497 (c)
e-mail: jpooleys5@cox.net

Moderator-Elect: Cameron Douglas
1138 Way Thru The Woods SW
Decatur, AL 35603
256-353-8421 (w) 256-606-8284 (c)
e-mail: pastorc@fcedecatur.com

First Vice Moderator: Gerri Johnson
P. O. Box 9776
Montgomery, AL 36108
334-263-1742 (h) 334-531-0419 (c)
e-mail: gj_wondering@yahoo.com

Second Vice Moderator: Loretta Rucker
2520 Lawn Ave. SW
Birmingham, AL 35211
205-925-1826 (h) 205-541-0925 (c)
e-mail: lorettar@bellsouth.net

Secretary-Treasurer: Carmencita Ortiz
20 Forever Wild Lane
Oxford, AL 36206
256-419-6775 (c)
e-mail: marifamily@msn.com

Regional Minister: John Mobley
861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
205-425-5245 (w)
e-mail: jpmobley2@aol.com

Associate Regional Minister Dale Braxton
8420 County Rd. 45
Ft. Deposit, AL 36032
334-227-4752 (h) 334-227-0011 (w)
e-mail: braxtondale@hotmail.com

Youth Ministries Staff Person: Nisha Warbington
15561 Dockery Road
Coker, AL 35452
205-330-8968 (h) 205-454-2054 (cell)
e-mail: Nisha7@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Susan Henderson
861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
205-425-5245 (w)
e-mail: alnwfl@aol.com

Regional Representative to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2014-2017:

Beth Thomason
2007 Orba Drive NE
Huntsville, AL 35811
256-837-8182 (w) 256-714-0943
e-mail: bethom66@yahoo.com
ITEMS OF INTEREST
(from within the Region)

OUTREACH GIVING

The giving by congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida to the Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas), at the end of July, 2014, shows a 16.08% decrease from the amount given for the same time period in 2013. Church-wide gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and these four Special Day Offerings has decreased by 5.23% from the year-to-date amount in 2013. Gifts by Alabama-Northwest Florida congregations to Week of Compassion through July, 2014, have decreased by 19.54% from the amount given through July, 2013. Church-wide giving to Week of Compassion, regular and designated, is showing a year-to-date decrease of 15.2%. The 2014 Easter Offering in Alabama-Northwest Florida is showing a year-to-date decrease of 1.8% compared to 2013. The 2014 Pentecost Offering in Alabama-Northwest Florida is showing a year-to-date increase of 2.8% over 2013.

Disciples outreach ministries are carried out in partnership between general ministries, ministries of higher education, Regions, congregations, and other related ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The financial support given by your congregation enables this partnership to be effective in carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ. Your commitment to our shared ministries is greatly appreciated.

NEWS OF THE CLERGY

Danny Barfield concluded his service in early July as Minister with Fairhope Christian Church and has gone back into retirement for health reasons. John Alford has been called to serve as Interim Minister with Fairhope Christian Church. He officially began his ministry in mid-August. Cameron Douglas will conclude his ministry with First Christian Church, Decatur, at the end of August.

Pamela Wilson has been approved for ordination by the Committee on the Ministry. A service of ordination is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, 2014, at Ambassadors for Christ Christian Church in Greenville.

CONGREGATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL VACANCIES

Decatur, First
Fairhope, Fairhope (John Alford is Interim Minister)
Hartselle, First (Jerry Ridling is Interim Minister)
Mobile, Azalea Hills (Phillip Hayes is Interim Minister)
Tuskegee, Mt. Calvary Missionary
White Hall, Mt. Zion

(Continued on back)
JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CLERGY

Betty Wright died on Friday, August 8. Her funeral service was held at her home church, Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, on August 12. Betty had served on Regional staff as Women's Ministries Staff person from 2001 - 2012. Frank Rittenberry (Valley, First of River View) has been undergoing follow-up chemotherapy treatments after hip replacement surgery he had in early June. Leigh Tatum, wife of Troy Tatum (Birmingham, First) had gall bladder surgery in early July. Danny Barfield (retired, Fairhope) was hospitalized in late July due to kidney stones. The father of Sandy Downs (Auburn, Village) is dealing with several major health issues. He lives in Tennessee.

(Please notify the Regional Office of other joys and concerns.)

Mark your calendars for the next required training opportunities for clergy:

Healthy Boundaries for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers - March 20, 2015
Anti-Racism Training for Ministers – April 17-18, 2015.

Note: These workshops are required for all ministers who wish to maintain their ministerial standing. They must be repeated after every 10 years.

CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION EVENT
February 13-14, 2015
First Christian Church, Birmingham
Guest Preacher and Workshop leader - Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm
Theme: “Wine and Wineskins: Fresh Vessels for the Everlasting Wine”

DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICE AVAILABLE

Congregations in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region can access demographic information on their communities by going to www.Link2lead.com and following the directions given (click on “register” to get started). This Region is providing this service at no cost to your congregation. If you have not downloaded recent demographic information for your community, with the latest census updates, please do so in order to lead your congregation to meet the needs of your community. Thank you for your gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund, which makes this ministry possible.
DATES FOR YOUR INFORMATION  September 1, 2014

SEPTEMBER
2  Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
6  Anti-Racism Team (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
9 - 11  SERF (Southeast Regional Fellowship) Retreat - Christmount, Black Mountain, NC
20  Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Birmingham
27  Program Committee on Church Development (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
28 - Oct. 5  Reconciliation Offering Promotion

OCTOBER
3 - 5  Women’s Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler
4  Division of Mission (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
5  World Communion Sunday and Reconciliation Offering Sunday
8  Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
11  Disciples Men’s Cabinet (8:30 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
     Division of Nurture (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
16  Optional Arrival Day for Young Adult Retreat
17 - 19  Young Adult Beach Retreat - Orange Beach, AL
19  District 5 Anti-Racism Workshop (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.) - South Baldwin Christian, Foley
25  Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena

NOVEMBER
1  CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
6 - 7  Senior Adult Retreat - Rolling Hills Retreat Center, Calera, AL
8  Assembly Planning Committee (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Florence
9  District 2 Anti-Racism Workshop (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.) - Grace Christian, Helena
16 - 23  Thanksgiving Offering Promotion (for ministries of higher education)

DECEMBER
2 - 4  College of Regional Ministers - Location TBD
8  Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
13  Executive/Personnel Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
14 - 21  Christmas Offering (for ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region)
16  Staff Planning Meeting (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena

JANUARY, 2015
12 - 14  Ministers and Mates Retreat - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, AL
16 - 18  Young Adult Winter Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler
21  Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
23 - 25  Youthtopia (all youth grades 6 - 12) - YMCA-Camp Chandler

FEBRUARY, 2015
3  Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
13 - 14  Congregational Transformation Event - First Christian Church, Birmingham
15 - 22  Week of Compassion Offering
21  Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
28  Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Birmingham

(Continued on back)
DATES (continued)

MARCH, 2015
2 - 5  Black Ministers Retreat - Montgomery, Alabama
12  Optional Arrival Date for Men’s Retreat
13 - 14  Men’s Retreat - YMCA-Hargis
20  “Healthy Boundaries” Workshop for Clergy (9:00 am - 3:30 pm) - Regional Office
29 - April 5  Easter Offering (for General Ministries of the Church)

APRIL, 2015
5  Easter
8  Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
8 - 10  College of Regional Ministers - Location TBD
11 - 14  General Board of the Christian Church - Location TBD
10 - 17  Anti-Racism Workshop for Clergy - First Christian Church, Montgomery
24 - 26  Family Camp - Oak Mountain State Park

MAY, 2015
5  Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
17 - 24  Pentecost Offering (for new congregation establishment)

JUNE, 2015
7 - 12  Beach Camp - (“The Lighthouse” Retreat Center at Romar Beach Baptist Church) -
Orange Beach, AL
22 - 26  Chi Rho Camp, and CYF Conference - YMCA-Camp Chandler
26 - 28  Genesis Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler
26 - 28  Discovery Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler
26 - 28  Regional Convocation Assembly - Harrison Street Christian, Greenville, AL
27 - July 1  Junior Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler

JULY, 2015
11  Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
18 - 22  General Assembly of the Christian Church - Columbus, Ohio
25  Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery

AUGUST, 2015
12  Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
15  Gathering of Moderators/Board Chairpersons (and pastors) - Location TBD
REGIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR
FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER, 2014

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN ALABAMA-NW FLORIDA

Note: Congregations are urged to lift up in prayer during worship the congregation(s) designated on each Sunday of the year. Special prayers are encouraged for the ministers listed as well. A phone number is listed for each congregation (in some cases an e-mail address is also listed) in order for persons to make contact with that congregation to learn of special joys and concerns prior to the Sunday when it is listed.

September 7 - Minter, Braggs – Joe Crook, Board Chair (334-227-4100)
September 14 - Mobile, Azalea Hills (251-633-6161) Phillip Hayes, Interim Minister (e-mail: <phillip.hayes@att.net>)
September 21 - Pensacola, First (850-477-1642) James Gazaway, Minister (e-mail: <fccpens@bellsouth.net>)
September 28 - Madison, Madison (256-837-8182) Beth Thomason and Mark Underwood, Ministers (e-mail: <bcthom66@yahoo.com> or <pastormu@hiwaay.net>)

October 5 - Robertsdale, First – Tom Stephenson, Minister (850-968-2871 or e-mail: <proncatom@gmail.com>)
October 12 - Helena, Grace (205-426-1233) Tommy Morgan and Phyllis Kirk, Ministers (e-mail: <ptommy2@att.net> or <pskirk@bellsouth.net>)
October 19 - Montgomery, First (334-270-1320) Susan Diamond and Diane Stephenson, Ministers (e-mail: <sdiamond@fccmontgomery.org> or <step Lady di@ hotmail.com>)
October 26 - Florence, First (256-764-2192) Jim Storie, Minister (e-mail: <jsstorie66@gmail.com>)

November 2 - Valhermoso Springs, First (256-778-7921) Mickey Johnson, Minister (e-mail: <mickey@tvpinc.com>)
November 9 - Jasper, First (205-384-6302) Jack Baldwin, Minister (e-mail: <jack.baldwin@ecunet.org>)
November 16 - Valley, Fairfax (334-756-3941) Duwayne Bridges, Minister (e-mail: <burningbridges@msn.com>)
November 23 - Montgomery, United(334-262-3382) Larue Smith, Jr., Minister (e-mail: <laruesmith@wildblue.net>)
Matthews, Mount Pleasant (334-227-4251) Danny Reeves, Minister (email: <dano57@charter.net>)
November 30 - Tuscaloosa, First (205-758-2968) Tom Goebel Minister (e-mail: <tandsgoebel@hotmail.com>)

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
RECONCILIATION MINISTRY OFFERING

SCHOOL YARDS

NOT

PRISON YARDS

September 28 and October 5, 2014
Scripture: Psalm 78:1-4
www.reconciliationministry.org
CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
(Disciples of Christ)  

RECONCILIATION GRANT APPLICATION  
(For a Regional Partnership in Reconciliation Ministries)  

NOTE: “Reconciliation Ministries” are understood to be congregational programs of education and outreach that address the issue of racism in North America and which have the effect of building racial understanding, healing, and harmony for participants in these programs. Congregations are encouraged to sponsor such programs and, if needed, request grants from the Reconciliation Fund. In the past, two or more congregations have formed partnerships in sponsoring Reconciliation Ministries. The Anti-Racism Team of the Region, which takes action on grant requests, encourages these partnerships and will look favorably upon grant applications that originate from such partnerships. The Anti-Racism Team also welcomes grant requests from Districts that need funding for special initiatives that intend to foster an anti-racist/pro-reconciliation identity.

Date ____________________________________________

Name of Congregation(s) (or District) ____________________________________________

Minister (or Contact Person) ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Phone ______________________ Email ______________________

Please offer a brief description of the program which clearly states:  (Attach a separate sheet)
1) the purpose, description, and anticipated goals of the program
2) the number of persons who will be involved in leadership of the program
3) the number of persons served through the program
4) the budget for the program, which itemizes anticipated expenses and lists sources of income for the program, including the amount the congregation(s) (or District) will allocate
5) any other relevant information concerning the history and development of this program

Amount of Funds Requested ____________________________________________

Do you anticipate making additional grant applications for this program in the future? ___

(Yes or No) ____________________________________________

Signature of Person Completing Form ____________________________________________

Role/Position in the Congregation ____________________________________________

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Birmingham, AL 35080

08/2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONGREGATION</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATHENS, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECATUR, FIRST</td>
<td>2,255.92</td>
<td>1,466.00</td>
<td>-34.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALKVILLE, CEDAR PLAINS</td>
<td>80.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLORENCE, FIRST</td>
<td>11,963.00</td>
<td>12,721.00</td>
<td>6.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARTSELLE, FIRST</td>
<td>1,517.00</td>
<td>1,330.00</td>
<td>-12.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUNTSVILLE, FIRST</td>
<td>36,564.07</td>
<td>17,819.00</td>
<td>-51.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUNTSVILLE, GRATEFUL LIFE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>394.41</td>
<td>4,102.69</td>
<td>940.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALHERMOSO SPRINGS, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNISTON, FIRST</td>
<td>3,906.30</td>
<td>714.00</td>
<td>-81.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNISTON, IGLESIA</td>
<td>1,364.27</td>
<td>669.68</td>
<td>-50.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BESSEMER, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, FIRST</td>
<td>23,777.16</td>
<td>28,644.71</td>
<td>12.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, NEW VISION</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
<td>-55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, MACEDONIA</td>
<td>754.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>-73.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, ROEBUCK</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, VALLEY</td>
<td>11,929.23</td>
<td>7,310.10</td>
<td>-38.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTONDALE CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>355.00</td>
<td>1,040.00</td>
<td>192.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELENA, GRACE</td>
<td>6,025.60</td>
<td>5,085.88</td>
<td>-15.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JASPER, FIRST</td>
<td>494.00</td>
<td>330.00</td>
<td>-33.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUSCALOOSA, FIRST</td>
<td>3,844.49</td>
<td>6,907.22</td>
<td>79.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUBURN, VILLAGE</td>
<td>691.00</td>
<td>1,180.00</td>
<td>70.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMP HILL, PLEASANT VIEW</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>77.00</td>
<td>-23.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANETT, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TALLASSEE, MACEDONIA</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>350.00</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, MT. CALVARY</td>
<td>280.00</td>
<td>112.55</td>
<td>-59.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUSKEGEE, UNION</td>
<td>7,100.00</td>
<td>5,425.00</td>
<td>-23.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALLEY, FAIRFAX</td>
<td>476.00</td>
<td>590.00</td>
<td>23.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALLEY, FIRST OF RIVER VIEW</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>136.00</td>
<td>444.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOthan, FIRST</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>-100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT DEPOSIT, SNOW HILL</td>
<td>1,100.00</td>
<td>1,860.00</td>
<td>69.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENVILLE, AMBASSADORS</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENVILLE, HARRISON STREET</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENVILLE, NEW BETHEL</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, LITTLE UNION</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>650.00</td>
<td>62.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, MOUNT ZION</td>
<td>775.00</td>
<td>280.00</td>
<td>-63.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, NEW SALEM</td>
<td>100.25</td>
<td>85.00</td>
<td>-15.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, SELLERS MEMORIAL</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
<td>-25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, WOODS CHAPEL</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, BIG UNION</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, MT. MORIAH</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, NEW HOPE</td>
<td>325.00</td>
<td>247.00</td>
<td>-24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, SALEM</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINTER, BRAGG</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY, FIRST</td>
<td>16,887.13</td>
<td>15,531.93</td>
<td>-7.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY, UNITED</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>-50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEWS, MOUNT PLEASANT</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTURY, EDWARD POINT</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIRHOPE CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>9,308.20</td>
<td>7,091.00</td>
<td>-24.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLEY, SOUTH BALDWIN</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>329.25</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT WALTON BEACH, FIRST</td>
<td>5,362.70</td>
<td>5,387.04</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT WALTON BEACH, IGLESIA</td>
<td>2,181.06</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOBILE, AZALEA HILLS</td>
<td>1,639.50</td>
<td>2,284.06</td>
<td>39.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENSAcola, FIRST</td>
<td>7,813.09</td>
<td>2,696.19</td>
<td>-65.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENSAcola, RENOVANDO TU FE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>719.00</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENSAcola, WESTWOOD</td>
<td>541.00</td>
<td>345.00</td>
<td>-36.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBERTSDALE, FIRST</td>
<td>470.00</td>
<td>480.00</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARALAND, OAKMONT</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AL/NW FL</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1,247.97</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>183,855.38</td>
<td>136,646.27</td>
<td>-16.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY - JULY, 2013 TO GIVING JANUARY - JULY, 2014.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONGREGATION</th>
<th>WEEK OF COMPASSION</th>
<th>RECONCILIATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHENS, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECATUR, FIRST</td>
<td>446.58</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALKVILLE, CEDAR PLAINS</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLORENCE, FIRST</td>
<td>3,494.00</td>
<td>2,726.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARTSVILLE, FIRST</td>
<td>1,636.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUNTSVILLE, FIRST</td>
<td>3,803.25</td>
<td>3,398.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUNTSVILLE, GRATEFUL LIFE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>330.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALHERMOSO SPRINGS, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNISTON, FIRST</td>
<td>353.64</td>
<td>101.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNISTON, IGLESA</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BESSEMER, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, FIRST</td>
<td>1,330.00</td>
<td>4,943.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, NEW VISION</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, MACEDONIA</td>
<td>22.50</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, ROEBUCK</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM, VALLEY</td>
<td>663.00</td>
<td>1,530.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTONDALE CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>350.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELENA, GRACE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JASPER, FIRST</td>
<td>255.00</td>
<td>110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUSCALOOSA, FIRST</td>
<td>1,980.00</td>
<td>440.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUBURN, VILLAGE</td>
<td>389.08</td>
<td>505.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMP HILL, PLEASANT VIEW</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANETT, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TALLASSEE, MACEDONIA</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, MT. CALVARY</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUSKEGEE, UNION</td>
<td>550.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALLEY, FAIRFA</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALLEY, FIRST OF RIVER VIEW</td>
<td>687.58</td>
<td>556.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOTHA, FIRST</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT DEPOSIT, SNOW HILL</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENVILLE, AMBASSADORS</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENVILLE, HARRISON STREET</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENVILLE, NEW BETHEL</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, LITTLE UNION</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, MOUNT ZION</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, NEW SALEM</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, SELLERS MEMORIAL</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAYNEVILLE, WOODS CHAPEL</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, BIG UNION</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, MT. MORIAH</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, NEW HOPE</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>181.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETOHATCHEE, SALEM</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINTER, BRAGGS</td>
<td>1,640.00</td>
<td>1,045.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY, FIRST</td>
<td>5,241.50</td>
<td>2,263.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY, UNITED</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEW'S, MOUNT PLEASANT</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTURY, EDWARD POINT</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIRHOPE CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>4,718.00</td>
<td>2,042.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPLA, SOUTH BALDWIN</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>398.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT WALTON BEACH, FIRST</td>
<td>160.00</td>
<td>216.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT WALTON BEACH, ISLESIJA</td>
<td>110.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOBILE, AZALEA HILLS</td>
<td>572.00</td>
<td>680.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENSACOLA, FIRST</td>
<td>469.00</td>
<td>459.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENSACOLA, RENOVANDO TU FE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENSACOLA, WESTWOOD</td>
<td>320.00</td>
<td>707.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBERTSDALE, FIRST</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARALAND, OAKMONT</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AL/NW FL</td>
<td>1,030.00</td>
<td>375.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>31,506.13</td>
<td>25,349.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY-JULY, 2013 TO GIVING JANUARY-JULY, 2014
CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
(Disciples of Christ)

MILDRED B. WATSON MEMORIAL FUND

Purpose
The Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund is a permanent fund established by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region, in partnership with Valley Christian Church, Birmingham, and the Christian Church Foundation, that will provide annual income to support leadership education for persons in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Mildred Watson supported the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and had a strong desire to see young people and young adults gain exposure to the ministries of the wider church. She valued education for all Disciples and she particularly wanted to see ministers have the education, resources, and support they need for their service to the church. The Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund will provide resources which address these commitments that were dear to Mildred Watson during her lifetime.

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE WATSON FUND

Name of Applicant __________________________ Date of Application __________________________

Address of Applicant __________________________ City __________ State __________ Zip Code __________

E-Mail Address of Applicant __________________________ Phone Number of Applicant __________________________

Congregation Where Applicant is a Member __________________________ Minister’s Name __________________________

Based on the Purpose of the Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund, as described above, please attach a separate sheet summarizing the opportunity for which you are requesting a grant and how it relates to the purpose of the Watson Fund. (Please limit to one page)

What is the total amount needed to participate in this opportunity. $ __________________________

Of this amount, how much will you be able to pay? __________________________ How much do you anticipate obtaining from other sources, if any? __________________________

What amount are you requesting from the Watson Fund? __________________________

Please return Application to: Regional Minister, Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Hwy. 52, Helena, AL 35080
YOUNG ADULT BEACH RETREAT
at “The Lighthouse” Christian Retreat and Conference Center
23370 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, AL 36561  <http://www.facebook.com/Romar.Beach.Baptist>

DATE: OCTOBER 17 - 19, 2014

THEME: Disciples of Christ Identity

All who consider themselves young adults in the Alabama-NW Florida Region are invited to participate in this retreat for renewal, fun, and relationship-building. The Retreat begins with dinner on Friday, but those desiring an extra day at the beach may arrive on Thursday for an additional $35.

COST: $50/person, or $85/person (for Thursday arrivals)
(Thanks to a subsidy from the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region)

Registration Deadline: October 8, 2014

(Please complete the form below, detach it, and return it with your check to the Regional office.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name ___________________________________________ Phone ______________________________

Address __________________________________________

Planned Arrival Date __________________________________________

Email __________________________________________

Congregation __________________________________________

* Please let us know if you have any special needs or dietary restrictions.

Mail Registration Form, along with a check for $50 (or $85 for Thursday arrivals) payable to “Christian Church-ALNWFL”, to: Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% refund for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event. No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email alnwfl@aol.com), within seven days of the last day of the event.

While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy, substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this information to the Regional Office. The Region will not be responsible in assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010
Thirteenth Annual

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT
Thursday, Nov. 6 - Friday, Nov. 7, 2014
(Begins at 11:30 a.m. Thursday and concludes by 1:30 p.m. on Friday)

“The Changing Role of Senior Adults in the Church”

Retreat Leader:
Rev. Dr. Carl Gebhardt
Retired Disciples Pastor

ST. BERNARD RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER
1600 St. Bernard Drive, Cullman, AL 35055
(at I-65, exit #308, go about 3-4 miles on Hwy. 278 E., to the retreat center entrance)

Cost Options
$80/person, double occupancy room w/ 2 twin beds (Early-Bird cost is $70)
$105/person, single occupancy room w/ 2 twin beds (Early-Bird cost is $95)
$50/person for participants lodging off-site (Early-Bird cost is $45)

**Limited Financial Aid is Available upon Request**

Early-Bird Deadline is October 16, 2014

Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
SENIOR ADULT RETREAT - Thursday, Nov. 6 - Friday, Nov. 7, 2014
St. Bernard Retreat and Conference Center, 1600 St. Bernard Drive - Cullman, AL 35055
(at I-65, exit #308, about 3-4 miles on Hwy. 278 E. to the retreat center entrance)

“The Changing Role of Senior Adults in the Church”
Led by: Rev. Dr. Carl Gebhardt, Retired Disciples Pastor

REGISTRATION FORM
(Please use separate form for each person registering)

Name _______________________________ E-Mail _______________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________
Phone Number ________________________________

Home Congregation __________________________________________________________

**Please describe any dietary restrictions, food allergies, or physical limitations on a separate sheet.

Please check ONE of the following options:

** Option One [Enclose $80 with this form (before October 16, pay only $70)]
(Option One includes registration and all four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center.)

_____ I am planning to room in the dormitory (double occupancy) at St. Bernard Retreat Center.

_____ I plan to room with ____________________________

_____ Please assign a roommate.

** Option Two [Enclose $105 with this form (before October 16, pay only $95)]
(Option Two includes registration and all four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center.)

_____ I am planning to room in the dormitory at St. Bernard Retreat Center without a roommate.

** Option Three [Enclose $50 with this form (before October 16, pay only $45)]
(Option Three includes registration, plus four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center: lunch and dinner on Thursday, and breakfast and lunch on Friday.)

_____ I am planning to find lodging on Thursday somewhere other than St. Bernard Retreat Center.

Note: Anyone wanting to stay at a nearby hotel needs to make reservations directly with the hotel of choice. There are many options in Cullman.

*************************************************************************************

Send appropriate payment with this registration form to:
Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

Early-Bird Deadline is October 16, 2014.
REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% refund for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email <alnwfl@aol.com>), within seven days of the last day of the event.

While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy, substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this information to the Regional office. The Region will not be responsible in assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010
FAMILY CAMP 2015

FAMILIES of ALNWFL are invited to a weekend getaway with WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, FUN, and CHURCH FAMILY!!!!

Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26

The festivities will be held

Oak Mountain State Park in Pelham, AL

Cost: $15.00 – Adults & $10.00 – Children

(MAX OF $50 PER FAMILY)

This includes Meeting Spaces, S’mores on Friday Night and a Cook-Out on Saturday Night.

Lodging Information

10 cabins have been reserved for our group! The cost is $127.68 per night. Each cabin has 2 BR and 1BA. Please let me know if you want one (or more) for your families/congregations!!! I will HOLD until closer to date, and release any that are not claimed. **FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE!!!!!**

Group primitive camping sites will also be available for anyone desiring to tent camp. The cost will be $6.00 per person/per night. If you desire this option, you can simply let us know on your registration form closer to date and pay upon arrival.

RV Camping is available. For these reservations, please call (205) 620-2527. The cost is $34.20 per night.

**Nearby hotels offer convenient locations right outside park. Consider: Fairfield Inn and Suites, Best Western Plus- Oak Mountain Inn, and Sleep Inn if a hotel better suits your needs!!! (There is a small daily admission charge for those not staying in the Park).**
~ QA2014 introduced the next step in the human trafficking social action emphasis ~

Breaking the Chains: Link by Link. We started with education; now we move to action. The
beginning of a web presence is up and available for your use. The three links of this chain are sex
trafficking, labor trafficking/immigration, and demand. Labor and Demand pages of ways you
can make a difference. Sex trafficking is still under construction. This is an expanding site, so
check back to see what is new. We are looking for your input also. Does your group or region
have something to share? Please let us know. Email odw@dhm.disciples.org with information
you would like considered for posting.

~ The online store is re-opened for business! Thanks for your patience while all the merchandise
was away at QA. You can now shop again. • The Symbol Items catalog has the new logo shawls ~
purple with a gold logo and red with a white logo. Only 11 each are available. • If you are looking for a
good buy, the QA shirts and totes are on sale, $10 and $15 respectively. • The Just Women catalog
features the Spring Bible study and the Summer issues along with subscriptions. The Winter 2014 sold-
out. You will notice that Summer 2013 is also shown as referenced in the Link By Link page on labor
trafficking.

Don’t miss our CWF/Disciples Women’s Fall Retreat on October 3 – 5, 2014 at YMCA Camp Chandler in
Wetumpka, AL. Our keynote speaker is Tajuan McCarty, the Founder and Executive Director of The
WellHouse, a nonprofit, faith-based and Christ-centered agency dedicated to rescuing women from
sexual exploitation/human trafficking. Tajuan was recognized as one of The Top 20 Women Who Made
a Difference in Birmingham in 2013 due to her efforts to fight human trafficking. We have strived to
encourage the inclusion of young women in ministry, education, and retreats. Betty Wright knew the
importance of training women in the ministry and in women’s work. We have a few scholarships
available for young women interested in attending retreat. Send email request to Ellenrawls@aol.com.
Memorials in honor of Betty are also being received by our cabinet, the Regional Office and The
Women’s Endowment Fund in Indianapolis. These memorials will be a lasting way to honor Betty
Wright. Betty was a remarkable Disciple Woman, who deserved this honor. Thanks and God bless!
August 1, 2014

Dear Sisters,

Your Disciples Women’s Cabinet has been planning a multitude of activities to make this year’s Fall Retreat one of the best ever! We are blessed to have Tajuan McCarty, the Founder and Executive Director of The WellHouse, as our keynote speaker. The WellHouse is a nonprofit, faith-based and Christ-centered agency dedicated to rescuing women from sexual exploitation/human trafficking. Alexa James, Development Director, will join her. Tajuan was recognized as one of The Top 20 Women Who Make a Difference in Birmingham in 2013. We are supporting The WellHouse with our regional service monies, so it will be great to hear first-hand what a marvelous work the Lord is doing in Birmingham.

Plan to bring your toiletry items to donate and, also, any old glasses will be given to the Lions Club. The WellHouse has a list of items at their website which are needed www.info@the-wellhouse.org

You may prefer to bring your money to donate. We will have our Silent Auction so please be sure to bring an item that you would like to share. We will be determining in our business meeting how this money will be used along with the new service projects. Please plan to attend our business meeting and let your voices be heard. Thanks for all of your contributions and service.

Come early on Friday and take a trolley ride downtown on a prayer walk/ride to visit several historic sites. Help to commemorate the passage of the Civil Rights Bill. Our weekend will be filled with fun, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Camp Chandler offers many outdoor activities including hiking, canoeing, and paddle boats. There will be group singing, vespers, morning watch, prayer time, fellowship, S’mores, and more. Camp Chandler has proven to be very accessible for everyone. Bring your comfortable casual clothes and walking shoes. There are lots of activities available, and arrangements are being made to assist in transporting ladies to the waterfront worship service. Bring a friend along to relax and fellowship with us as we gather for our Lord. We are planning after dinner fun on Saturday night including more rounds of Bible Trivia Feud, Zumba, Line Dancing, Karaoke, games, and whatever you decide you like to do. Our Saturday Fun Nights are always a big hit!

DON’T DELAY, FILL OUT YOUR REGISTRATION, AND SEND IT IN TODAY!
If you are interested in helping with the retreat in any manner, please call me (251-554-5369).
Thanks for always being there to lend a hand! May Christ continue to bless all of you.

Love in Christ,
Ellen Rawls, President, CWF/Disciples Women in AL/NW Florida Region
Come join the fun & fellowship!
CWF/Disciples Women
Fall Retreat
October 3 – 5, 2014
YMCA Camp Chandler
Wetumpka, Alabama

Keynote Speaker: Tajuan McCarty is the Founder and Executive Director of The WellHouse, a nonprofit, faith-based and Christ-centered agency dedicated to rescuing women from sexual exploitation/human trafficking. Tajuan was recognized as one of The Top 20 Women Who Make a Difference in Birmingham in 2013 due to her efforts to fight human trafficking.

"See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."
Colossians 4:17

Please bring hygiene items, old eyeglasses, and items from The WellHouse Needs List online at
www.info@the-wellhouse.org

Retreat Activities include:

Bible Study
Bible Feud
Dancing
Games
Karaoke
Ministries
Praise and Worship
Prayer
Singing

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. . .Colossians 4:17a
We Are Beautifully and Wonderfully Made

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. Psalm 139:14 (NIRV)

RESOURCE LEADERS: Tajuan McCarty and Alexa James from The WellHouse in Birmingham, AL

What to bring: Bible, bedding, sheets, pillow, blanket, towels, toiletries, casual wear (including rainwear) and walking shoes or hiking boots, items for Silent Auction, flashlight, journal or writing materials, coffee cup, water bottle, old glasses and toiletry items for homeless families

Important Information:
Registration begins Friday, October 3rd, at 3:30 p.m.
Retreat begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Retreat ends Sunday, October 5th, around 10:00 a.m.
Transportation will be available to workshop sites
Camp Chandler does not rent linen supplies
IN CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS,
NO CHILDREN, PLEASE

------------- Clip and mail to: Christian Church in AL/NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080-------------
Make check payable to Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida

NAME_____________________________ CONGREGATION____________________

ADDRESS_______________________________________________________________ CITY________________________ ZIP________

PHONE (home)____________________ (work)____________________ Email____________________________

Is this your first Retreat? ______ Yes ______ No ______ How many retreats have you attended? ______

| Early Bird Special Registration Fee postmarked by September 19, 2014 | $115.00 |
| After September 19, 2014 Registration Fee is | $125.00 |
| Friday Evening Only Rate: | $ 35.00 |
| Saturday Only Rate: Includes 3 meals, NO Lodging | $ 75.00 |

**Entire Fee must be enclosed with registration form for early-bird rate to apply**

Because of physical reasons I need a lower bunk _____
I request to be in a quiet section _____
I need special seating during meals _____
I need transportation to workshops _____
Roommate Request _________________________________________________________
Dietary Restrictions _______________________________________________________

Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% refund for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email <alnwfl@aol.com>), within seven days of the last day of the event.

While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy, substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this information to the Regional office. The Region will not be responsible in assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010
Back to School: How Churches Can Partner with Local Schools

Every healthy community builds on the resources of local churches and schools. The vitality of these two key institutions tells the larger story of the community’s overall quality of life. Historically, churches and schools formed partnerships that benefited children, their families, and the development of future leaders. Today’s schools face unprecedented challenges—such as declining funds, poverty, performance pressures, and violence. What can churches do to strengthen their relationship with local schools?

It’s Not a New Program

The successful initiative is not about starting a new program—it is about beginning a relationship with others in your community. Starting and growing any relationship requires an investment of time and listening. Leaders can take the first step by learning about the community and its schools. Get to know as much as you can about community needs, what others are doing, and potential partners—the school district, social service agencies, community nonprofits, local government, and other churches. Be open to hearing and learning about the most crucial needs. Identify the individuals (the school principals and other key administrators) who are the primary players in any successful school-church partnership. Finally, find ways to build a relationship of trust and respect.

Ideas for Relationships and Partnerships

Dr. Lovett Weems, Lewis Center for Church Leadership, identifies four categories that provide a framework for thinking about church/school partnerships. Congregations can (1) help students succeed, (2) assist with student needs, (3) support and affirm teachers, and (4) advocate for schools and education.¹

Helping students succeed. The most common partnering role by churches involves volunteer mentors or tutors, or after-school programs. Many communities already have these programs in place and churches link members to existing opportunities to volunteer. Other options include offering space for a homework club, computer labs, practice space for music or art, a community garden, and other school-related activities. Some churches help college-bound students with test preparation, college forms and applications, and college selection.

Assisting with student needs. Because student enrollment reflects the community, the percentage of schoolchildren that receive free or reduced-cost school lunches is one important indicator of area poverty. In many schools across the country, 100 percent of the attending children qualify for the free/reduced-cost lunch program. Once the figure reaches 40 percent or more, the number of children and their families requiring support and assistance is significant. These children often do not have some of the basic necessities to succeed in school—adequate nutrition, books and supplies, or school clothing and uniforms.

Some examples of ways that congregations partner with local schools to meet student needs include collecting and distributing school supplies as a new school year begins and assisting with the purchase of school uniforms, shoes, or sports uniforms. Because many children are at risk of hunger when school is not in session, some churches offer a summer lunch program or organize a backpack food program for the weekends (see the excellent starter toolkit for the Backpack Food Program by Hunger

**Supporting and affirming the work of teachers.** Teachers receive more blame and disrespect in political debates about public education than they deserve. Teachers welcome any positive words or actions to bolster their calling as educators. At the beginning of the school year, worship services can honor teachers, celebrate their contributions, and bless their future work. Create a community event at the end of the school year to celebrate the accomplishments of students and teachers. Other ideas from school-partnering churches include contributing or funding supplies used in the classroom, hosting a thank-you lunch for teachers, and providing volunteers for the classroom, lunchroom, or playground.

**Advocating for schools and education.** No single congregation can do everything, but every congregation can do something. If a congregation does ministry *with* their community (rather than *to* their community), they create solutions and possibilities together. Encourage members to become advocates for public education. Track the actions of local school boards and educational policies at the district, state, and federal levels. Invite a principal or panel of educational leaders to speak at your church. Congregations can help community leaders identify the root causes of economic injustice and how inequality affects children and their schools. Church leaders can also assist with organizing parents and teachers to create better schools.

**Three Necessary Questions**

A successful partnership between the church and community must meet three criteria by answering yes to the following questions: First, do our efforts fit with our church’s mission? Many wonderful initiatives and options exist but not all make theological sense for a local church. Second, what are the real needs of our community’s children? Are we considering plans that satisfy and reward our members? Or, have we strategically identified where our partners and we might make the most difference? Third, what do we do well as a church? Do we have the passion, assets, and volunteers to carry out a successful partnership? When we lack the necessary capabilities even though our efforts fit with the church’s mission and meet significant community needs, burnout and failure are the result. When real needs are overlooked or unmet even though our efforts fit with our mission and we possess the required strengths, irrelevance and disappointment are the result. Doing what is best does not require great strength. But great strength is required to choose the right path.

**A Few Cautions**

When children are part of the picture, additional assurances must be considered.

- All church-school partnerships must put child safety first. Train all volunteers to follow the guidelines for appropriate adult-child interactions. Check that church facilities are free of hazards and safe for children of all ages.
- Churches must honor church and state boundaries and refrain from evangelizing in the school context. Trust that your actions speak louder than words.
- To avoid setbacks, churches should begin small—by initiating a partnership with one classroom teacher, one school principal, or the parent leaders in a classroom. Long-term success relies on careful thinking about sustainability, accessibility, and scalability. In other words, if our efforts succeed, will we be able to meet future needs without exceeding available resources?

**The Bottom Line**

After World War II, the city leaders of Pittsburgh brought in Frank Lloyd Wright for a consultation. They were concerned about the downtown’s dreary appearance stemming from steel manufacturing. They said to him, “What shall we do with Pittsburgh?” He studied the matter and then gave them this reply: “Bury it!” But those leaders stayed with it because they had a vision for their city. Pittsburgh became one of the most beautiful and livable city centers.

Unfortunately, many leaders have given up on public education and feel a proper burial is in order. People of faith can remain steadfast in their vision of how public schools are the best investment to create healthy communities and the next generation’s leaders.

1. See the Engaging Local Schools Resource at http://www.churchleadership.com/surveyourneighbor/EngagingLocalSchools.asp for extensive material about how churches work with local schools.
2. Dr. Lovett Weems, “Identifying Strategic Initiatives” in Engaging Local Schools CD (2014).
3. Elbert Hubbard, American editor, publisher, and writer, 1856-1915.

---

Copyright © 2014 by Cynthia Woolever
www.TheParishPaper.com
How Can We Prevent Suicide?

Matthew Warren, 27, took his life after a long battle with mental illness. Even with medical care and spiritual support from his parents, Rick and Kay Warren, he was not able to overcome his depression. Rick Warren, founder of Saddleback Church and author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, has shared how he and his wife tried to cope with their loss: “Behind every publicly successful ministry, there is private pain. Pain is God’s megaphone.” Warren also said, “We mistakenly think that the world is impressed by how we handle prosperity, but the fact is the world is impressed by how we handle adversity.”

Rising Suicide Rates

More than 30,000 Americans commit suicide every year. These deaths exceed the number from homicide and motor vehicle accidents. Over the past ten years, suicide rates have increased and the rate change appears to be specific to certain age groups. Although the rates remained stable for those under thirty-five and over sixty-five years old, the rates rose substantially for persons between thirty-five and sixty-four years of age.1

While stress associated with the recent economic downturn could play a role in this increase, researchers have also found a “cohort effect” that suggests people born thirty-five to sixty-four years ago are at greater risk for suicide—a risk that continues throughout their lives.

Outside of the growing number of suicides among middle-age persons, two of the highest at-risk groups for suicide are youth (particularly LGBTQ-identified youth) and veterans. Finally, the widespread use of opiate pain medications provides at-risk individuals an easily accessible and low-pain-level suicide method through intentional overdose.

Risk Factors and Warning Signs

The effectiveness of suicide prevention rests on our deeper understanding of how and why suicide occurs.2

Risk factors. Identifying risk factors gives family members, friends, and health-care providers important information in order to detect and assist individuals who need care. Risk factors are things that make it more likely that people will consider, attempt, or die by suicide. Some risk factors are individual (mental disorders, genetic or personality traits), some are family (violence, dysfunction), and some are community-related (availability and quality of mental health services).

Nine out of ten people who die by suicide had a mental disorder at the time of their death. Unfortunately, their disorder had not been recognized, diagnosed, or appropriately treated.

Among those who take their own life, depression is more common than any other disorder. Major depression, a serious emotional and biological disease, is different from the normal human response to loss or disappointment. Although the symptoms of major depression may be subtle to observers, the person who suffers from the disease experiences changes in thoughts, feelings, behavior, mood, and physical health. Some of these significant shifts include changes in sleep, appetite, energy level, self-esteem, interests, and concentration.
**Warning signs.** Warning signs tell of an immediate danger of suicide and apply only to individuals at a specific time. Typical warning signs that indicate someone is seriously considering suicide include threatening or seeking to hurt or kill oneself, hopelessness, increasing alcohol or drug use, dramatic mood changes, and efforts to put personal affairs in order. In addition, the risk of suicide increases when someone experiences a tipping point—the loss of an important relationship, financial or medical problems, physical or emotional pain.

**Reducing the Risks**

Because depression is a significant risk factor, any action, intervention, or policy that lessens the number of people suffering from depression will result in reducing the suicide rate. The same is true for factors associated with drug and alcohol abuse.

*Equipping pastoral leaders.* Many people go to their pastor before they go to a health-care professional. Training and supporting pastors and lay leaders to recognize symptoms and helping to ensure that they have up-to-date information on community mental health providers are critical.

*Spiritual support and friendship.* Several studies show that a belief in a loving God, along with participation in a church whose members care for one another, leads to positive mental health, including lower rates of depression. Because anyone can struggle with these challenges, churches can debunk the myth that depression or mental illness is a sign of spiritual weakness.

*Reducing the stigma of mental illness.* In any given year, an estimated twenty-five million American adults experience major depression but less than half will receive treatment. In every congregation, attending adults who are not dealing with depression or mental illness themselves often know someone who is—a family member, friend, or coworker. People suffering from depression or other mental problems are less likely to attend religious services and when they do attend, are not as likely to be part of a small group. Finding ways to welcome and include everyone is the goal. For example, 22,000 churches have a Celebrate Recovery small-group ministry (http://www.celebraterecovers.com/).

*Advocacy for community mental health care.* Members and pastors can advocate for greater accessibility and improved quality in the treatment of mental illness in their community. Congregations can be part of this conversation by understanding the availability of services around them and contacting government officials to petition that change happen in their community and nationwide.

**Responding to Warning Signs**

When you suspect that someone is considering suicide, take it seriously. At least half of those who attempt suicide tell someone else about their intention. First, express your concern for them, and then ask if they're thinking about suicide. The idea that people attempt suicide for attention is a myth, and sometimes an individual will not tell anyone their plans without prompting. Try to find out where they are in the ideation process. Are they just thinking about suicide, or do they know how they're going to do it? Do they already have the means ready at home? Listen without judgment and do not try to argue, reason, plead, or preach. Also, maintain focus on them; comparing struggles of your own or others nullifies their feelings and may cause them to shut down.

Encourage them to get professional help immediately and if they will let you, take them to a walk-in clinic, doctor, or emergency room. Do not leave them alone and, if necessary, call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).

**Not the End of a Story**

After her son’s death, Kay Warren found comfort in the phrase “God is not helpless among the ruins.” She describes the essence of her faith as “living with hope in the face of mystery.” She says that faith won’t survive without hope, and hope won’t survive without the realization that some mysteries will not be answered. She believes “if you can embrace both, you can have a vibrant faith.” When faced with this tragedy, people of faith claim there is more to this story than how it ends.

1. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6217a1.htm?_cid=mm6217a1_w.

Copyright © 2014 by Cynthia Wooley
www.TheParishPaper.com